

Legal Requirements to Engage Youth in Court

Welfare and Institutions Code sections 366.3 and 727.3 – The Court must ask the child about his or her desired permanency outcomes.

Welfare and Institutions Code sections 16501, 16501.1 and 832 – A of January 1, 2017, Child and Family teams are legally required in developing the case plan. The child and family team process must engage the child or youth, child's family and other people important to the child or youth in meeting the case plan objectives.

Welfare and Institutions Code section 349 – A child has a right to attend the hearing. The Court must inform the child that he or she has a right to address the court and participate in the hearing and the court must allow the child, if they so desire, to address the court and participate in the hearing

California Rules of Court, Rule 5.708 – The Court must consider whether the child was actively involved in the development of the case plan. For a child 12 years of age or older in a permanent placement, the court must consider whether the child was given the opportunity to review the case plan, sign it, and receive a copy.

California Rules of Court, Rule 5.530 – The child or nonminor dependent is entitled to be present in court.