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**Oregon
 Public
 Defense
 Commission**

Nonvoting Members:

Rep. Paul Evans
 Haley Olson
 Caitlin Plummer
 Sen. Floyd Prozanski

Interim Executive Director:

Kenneth Sanchagrin

Oregon Public Defense Commission Workgroup

*Meeting will occur virtually
 Thursday, November 6, 2025
 5:00 to 6:30pm
 Via Zoom**

Administrative Announcement

This is a public meeting, subject to the public meeting law and it will be recorded. Discussion will only be allowed amongst Commission members and staff for the duration of this meeting. Public comment will not be allowed during this meeting.

AGENDA

Approx. Time	Item	Lead(s)
5:00-5:05	Welcome/Call to Order	Chair Nash
5:05-5:15	Briefing: Comprehensive Public Defense Report	Lisa Taylor
5:15-5:30	Briefing: January Status Report	Lisa Taylor
5:30-5:50	Update/Discussion: New Key Performance Measures (KPMs)	Kim Freeman
5:50-6:30	Update/Discussion: <u>Delinquency Attorney Standards</u> • <u>Parent-Child Representation Standards (PCRP)</u>	Steve Arntt Annie Borton
6:30 (Approximately)	***Adjourn***	

**To join the Zoom meeting, click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/96631318452>. This meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities or with additional language service needs. Our Zoom virtual meeting platform is also equipped with Closed Captioning capabilities in various languages, which agency staff can assist you with setting up ahead of meetings.*

Requests for interpreters for the hearing impaired, for other accommodations for persons with disabilities, or for additional interpreter services should be made to info@opdc.state.or.us. Please make requests as far in advance as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting, to allow us to best meet your needs. Listed times are an estimate, and the Chair may take agenda items out of order and/or adjust times for agenda items as needed.

*Next meeting: **January 8, 2026, 5-6:30pm via Zoom.***

Meeting dates, times, locations, and agenda items are subject to change by the Commission; future meeting dates are posted at: <https://www.oregon.gov/opdc/commission/Pages/meetings.aspx>

Note: *Agenda items not addressed or completed during this meeting will be carried over to the next scheduled meeting, unless otherwise directed by the Chair.*



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 6, 2025

To: Jennifer Nash, Chair
Susan Mandiberg, Vice Chair
OPDC Commissioners

Cc: Ken Sanchagrin, Interim Executive Director

From: Steve Arntt, Trial Support and Development (TS&D) Manager

Re: Purpose of Draft Performance Standards and Options for Modification

Nature of Presentation: Briefing

Background:

TS&D submitted DRAFT Performance Standards for Attorneys in Juvenile Delinquency cases that were submitted to the Commission last month. Commissioners were concerned that Parent-Child Representation Program (PCRP) lawyers and non-PCRP lawyers were held to the same standards and expectations despite PCRP lawyers having lower caseloads and more resources. In response, TS&D developed 12 PCRP Expectations for the Commission's review.

TS&D is also now introducing the Dependency Performance Standards as committed at a previous meeting.

Delinquency Standards

The Juvenile Delinquency Standards were introduced last month. They were drafted with input from the provider community. Commissioners inquired about whether the document adequately addressed privilege, confidentiality, and the challenges unique to representing underage clients. The Commentary discusses these concerns at some length.

A change to Standard 1.1 now includes language related to the lawyer's duty to their youth client and the necessity to explain that duty to both the youth and any parent or guardian.

TS&D anticipates submitting these standards for approval at the November Commission meeting.

Dependency Standards

TS&D is also introducing Dependency Standards to the Commission for the first time. These Standards were drafted in conjunction with the provider community. TS&D recognizes that providers may have strong opinions on Standards even though they may not have engaged in drafting standards. In order to capture those thoughts TS&D submits the Standards for public comment. Once TS&D receives the Commission and provider comments, TS&D will adjudicate those comments and submit the Standards for final Commission approval.

TS&D anticipates sending these to the Commission for Approval in December.

PCRP Expectations

TS&D is introducing the PCRP Expectations for Commission Consideration. The Expectations are submitted for review and comment. These Expectations are also being submitted to the PCRP provider community for comment. Once TS&D adjudicates the comments from the Commission and provider community the Expectations will come back to the Commission for approval.

All juvenile providers must meet the baseline standards laid out in the Juvenile Dependency Standards and Juvenile Delinquency Standards. The Standards outline black letter baseline requirements and commentary regarding aspirational practices. The PCRP Expectations build on the aspirational practices outlined in the commentary with the addition of some programmatic specific responsibilities. Only PCRP lawyers are required to meet the PCRP expectations. Some non-PCRP lawyers may follow these expectations in practice, but they are not a requirement of their OPDC contract.

TS&D anticipates sending these Expectations for approval in December.

Recommendation:

TS&D requests that the commission approve the proposed Delinquency Performance Standards at its November 19th meeting. TS&D requests that the Commission review and provide commentary on the proposed Dependency Performance Standards and the PCRP Expectations for adjudication and follow-up submission to the Commission for future approval.

Fiscal Impact:

To be determined.

Agency Proposed Motion:

None at this time. These standards will be presented at future meetings for approval.

Attachments:

Current Draft Delinquency Performance Standards.

Current Draft Dependency Performance Standards

Current Draft PCRPs Expectations



Delinquency Attorney Performance Standards (DRAFT)

November 2025

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DRAFT

Standards for Representation in Delinquency Cases

INTRODUCTION

Oregon Revised Statute 151.216(j) mandates that the Oregon Public Defense Commission (OPDC) “[d]evelop, adopt and oversee the implementation, enforcement and modification of policies, procedures, minimum standards, and guidelines to ensure that public defense providers are providing effective assistance of counsel consistently to all eligible persons in this state as required by statute and the Oregon and United States Constitutions. The policies, procedures, standards, and guidelines described in this paragraph apply to employees of the commission and to any person or entity that contracts with the commission to provide public defense services in this state.”

The following standards were developed by OPDC staff with input from a delinquency defense provider workgroup. Per OPDC policy, these standards will be reviewed and revised one, two, and five years from adoption. OPDC welcomes ongoing provider input regarding the content and efficacy of these standards.

This iteration of the Standards was drawn heavily from the existing Oregon State Bar Standards for Representation in Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency Cases. OPDC has adopted those standards to make them specific to delinquency casework and has added language that reflects evolving standards of practice. Each standard sets a baseline for practice of appointed defense work and is followed by commentary that supplements the baseline standards. OPDC recognizes that in any given case, some standards and commentary might be inapplicable or even mutually exclusive.

Commentary is particularly challenging as there are many times when the commentary is impractical or even against a client’s best interest or desire. OPDC acknowledges that to practice law, exceptions to these baseline rules and their commentary must apply. The commentary provides additional considerations for counsel performing public defense. There are times when items listed in the commentary may be useful or helpful during representation. They are not meant to establish baseline minimum performance standards.

OPDC is grateful to the prior work of the Oregon State Bar and to the Oregon Public Defense Commission Delinquency Standards Workgroup for the extensive work OPDC drew upon in the development process.

STANDARD 1.1 – ROLE OF DEFENSE COUNSEL

The lawyer for a youth in a delinquency case should provide quality and zealous representation at all stages of the case, always advocating for the youth's expressed interests. The lawyer should be familiar with applicable statutes, caselaw, and local court practices, and should stay aware of changes and developments in the law. The lawyer shall abide by the Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct and applicable rules of court. **The lawyer must explain to the youth and, where appropriate, to the youth's parents or guardians that the lawyer may not substitute a parent or guardian's interests or view of the youth's best interests for those expressed by the youth.**

Commentary:

1. In abiding by the Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct, a lawyer should ensure that each youth receives competent, conflict-free representation in which the lawyer keeps the youth informed about the representation and promptly responds to reasonable requests for information.
2. The defense of a delinquency case requires knowledge and skills specific to juvenile defense in addition to what is required for the defense of an adult criminal case. The lawyer should be knowledgeable about adolescent development and be well-versed in the relevant statutes, case law and local court rules concerning juvenile delinquency cases. The lawyer should be familiar with the applicable standards at every stage of the proceedings and vigorously advocate to protect the youth's due process rights, challenge the prosecution's case, and ensure that any court-ordered services are provided in the least restrictive setting.
3. In juvenile delinquency cases, a lawyer is bound by the youth's definition of their interests and should not substitute the lawyer's judgment for that of the youth regarding the objectives of the representation. Bearing in mind that children may be more susceptible to influence than an adult, a lawyer should ensure that the youth's decisions reflect their actual position. To this end, the lawyer has a duty not to overbear the will of the youth.
4. A lawyer should provide candid advice to the youth regarding the probable success and consequences of pursuing a particular position in the case and give the youth the information necessary to make informed decisions, including making available and reviewing discovery material with the youth. A lawyer should consult with the youth regarding the assertion or waiver of any right or position of the youth. The lawyer should explain to the youth, in a developmentally appropriate way, which decisions belong to the youth alone and which may be made by the lawyer.
5. A lawyer should consult with the youth on the strategy and means by which the youth's objectives are to be pursued and exercise the lawyer's professional judgment

concerning technical and tactical decisions involved in the representation. The lawyer should keep the youth fully informed, including reviewing discovery with the youth and provide the youth with information and advice at all junctures of the case to assist the youth with making informed decisions.

6. A lawyer assigned to actively assist a *pro se* accused youth should be apprised about the matter and prepared to accept representation in the matter to the extent that the circumstances of the case allow if ethically permissible. OPDC understands that there is inherent difficulty in taking over a case from a *pro se* litigant and maintaining the current case timelines.

STANDARD 1.2 – EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE OF DEFENSE COUNSEL

- A. A lawyer must be familiar with the applicable substantive and procedural law, and its application in the particular jurisdiction where counsel provides representation. A lawyer has a continuing obligation to stay abreast of changes and developments in the law and with changing Commentary for providing quality representation in delinquency cases. A lawyer should also be informed of the practices of the specific judge before whom a case is pending.**
- B. Prior to handling a delinquency matter, a lawyer must have sufficient experience and training to provide quality representation. Prior to accepting appointment in a delinquency case, a lawyer must be certified for that case type by OPDC.**

Commentary:

1. To remain proficient in the law, court rules, and practice applicable to delinquency cases, a lawyer should regularly monitor the work of Oregon courts, pertinent federal appellate courts, and the Oregon State Legislature. A lawyer should stay current on changes in case law and statutes applicable to juveniles and apply changes to current practice. Lawyers in delinquency cases must stay current in appellate opinions regarding evidence, juvenile delinquency law, and applicable changes to criminal procedure and substantive criminal law. A lawyer should stay up to date on the direct and collateral consequences of a juvenile adjudication.
2. A lawyer should maintain membership in state and national organizations that focus on education and training in the practice of criminal and delinquency cases and subscribe to listservs, consult available online resources, and attend continuing legal education programs devoted to the practice of criminal and delinquency cases. A lawyer practicing juvenile delinquency law should complete at least 10 hours of continuing legal education training in criminal and delinquency law each year, at least three hours of which should be specific to delinquency defense.

3. Lawyers should be familiar with other non-penal consequences of a delinquency adjudication, such as those affecting driving privileges, public benefits, sex offender registration, residency restrictions, student financial aid, opportunities for military service or other public service, professional licensing, firearms possession, DNA sampling, HIV testing, among others. A lawyer practicing juvenile delinquency law should become familiar with the basics of immigration law pertinent to the possible immigration consequences of an adjudication in a delinquency case for noncitizen youths.
4. Before undertaking representation in a juvenile delinquency case, a less experienced lawyer should obtain training in the relevant areas of practice and should consult with others in the field, including non-lawyers. A less experienced lawyer should observe and, when possible, serve as co-counsel to more experienced lawyers prior to accepting sole responsibility for a delinquency case. More experienced lawyers should mentor less experienced lawyers.
5. Lawyers in delinquency cases should develop a working-knowledge of child and adolescent development, including information concerning emotional, social, and neurological development that could impact effective communication by the lawyer with youths and the defense of charges against the youth. Lawyers in delinquency cases should be familiar with adolescent brain development, the impact of trauma on emotional and neurological development, and should be trained in communicating with youth in a developmentally appropriate manner.
6. Lawyers should recognize when to consult with and retain experts to assist in the youth's defense.
7. A lawyer providing representation in juvenile delinquency cases should be familiar with key agencies and services typically involved in those cases, such as the Oregon Youth Authority, the Department of Human Services, the Juvenile Psychiatric Security Review Board, county Juvenile Department, private treatment facilities, along with other services and programs available as alternatives to detention and dispositional alternatives to custody.
8. Lawyers representing youth in the criminal system must be familiar with the federal sight and sound restrictions for housing youth in custody with adults.-
9. A lawyer for indigent youth should be familiar with services available to youths who are unhoused, unable to provide for their own food, or need other social services.

STANDARD 1.3 – OBLIGATIONS OF DEFENSE COUNSEL REGARDING WORKLOAD

Before accepting appointment as counsel, a lawyer has an obligation to ensure that they have sufficient time, resources, knowledge, and experience to offer quality representation to a

youth in a delinquency matter. If it later appears that the lawyer is unable to offer quality representation in the case, the lawyer must move to withdraw.

Commentary:

1. A lawyer should have access to sufficient support services and resources to allow for quality representation.
2. A lawyer should evaluate their ability to appear in court with youths when deciding whether to accept an appointment in a case. Lawyers should not overly rely on other lawyers to cover their appearances. A lawyer should appear personally for all critical stages of the case.
3. When possible, lawyers should appear in person or in the same manner as their clients.

STANDARD 2.1 – OBLIGATIONS OF DEFENSE COUNSEL AT INITIAL APPEARANCE

A lawyer must be familiar with the law regarding initial appearance, arraignment, and detention. At the initial court appearance in a delinquency case, a lawyer should inform the youth of the offenses alleged in the petition, and assert and preserve pertinent statutory and constitutional rights of the youth on the record. Lawyers should seek release for detained youths at the first appearance.

Commentary:

1. A lawyer should promptly conduct youth conflict checks.
2. A lawyer should always endeavor to meet with and interview youths in advance of their first appearance.
3. A lawyer should be familiar with the local practice regarding case docketing and processing so that the lawyer may inform the youth regarding expected case events and the dates for upcoming court appearances.
4. A lawyer should be familiar with the law regarding initial appearance and juvenile detention.
5. A lawyer should be prepared to enter an appropriate assertion that preserves the youth's rights and demands due process, whether that is a denial of the allegations in a delinquency petition or request for some other further proceeding. A lawyer should make clear that the youth reserves the following rights in the present and any other matter:
 - a. Right to remain silent under the State and Federal Constitutions;
 - b. Right to counsel under State and Federal Constitutions;

- c. Right to file challenges to the petition;
 - d. Right to file challenges to the evidence;
 - e. Right to file notices of affirmative defenses; and
 - f. Right to a speedy trial.
6. A lawyer should be prepared to object the court's failure to comply with the law regarding the initial appearance process, such as the statute requiring an ability to confer confidentially with the youth during a video arraignment.
 7. A lawyer should obtain all relevant documents and orders that pertain the youth's initial appearance. A lawyer should ensure that the youth has all relevant orders, as desired by the youth.
 8. A lawyer may waive formal reading of the allegations and advice of rights by the court, providing the lawyer advises the youth what rights are waived, the nature of the allegations and the potential consequences of relinquishing their rights.
 9. If the adjudicatory judge is assigned at the initial appearance, the lawyer must be familiar with the law and local practice for filing motions to disqualify a judge, discuss this with the youth, and be prepared to timely file appropriate documents challenging an assigned judge.
 10. Lawyers should seek release of incarcerated youths at the initial appearance in accordance with standard 2.3.

STANDARD 2.2 – YOUTH CONTACT AND COMMUNICATION

A lawyer should personally conduct a youth interview as soon as practicable after representation begins and thereafter establish a procedure to maintain regular contact with the youth. These meetings should be used to explain the allegations and the nature of the proceedings, meet the ongoing needs of the youth, obtain necessary information from the youth, consult with the youth about decisions affecting the course of the defense, and to respond to requests from the youth for information or assistance concerning the case. For youths who are in custody, the initial interview should take place no more than 2 business days after assignment to the attorney. For out of custody youths, initial outreach to schedule an initial interview should occur no more than 3 business days after assignment to the attorney.

Commentary:

1. A lawyer should provide a clear explanation, in developmentally appropriate language and using an interpreter as needed, of the role of both the youth and the lawyer and demonstrate appropriate commitment to the youth's expressed interests in the

outcome of the proceedings. A lawyer should elicit the youth's point of view and encourage the youth's full participation in the defense of the case.

2. The initial interview should be in person, in a private setting that allows for a confidential conversation. To maintain privileges and assure that the youth knows the communication is confidential, a lawyer should not allow parents or other people to participate in the initial meeting with the youth.
3. At the initial meeting, the lawyer should review the allegations facing the youth and be prepared to discuss the necessary elements of the charges and the procedure the youth will be facing in subsequent court appearances, and should inquire if the youth has any immediate needs.
4. Prior to all meetings, the lawyer should:
 - a. Be familiar with the elements of the charged offense(s) and the potential disposition alternatives;
 - b. Obtain copies of any relevant documents that are available. This includes any charging documents and recommendations and reports made by agencies including but not limited to reports regarding pre-adjudication detention and any law enforcement reports that might be available;
 - c. Be familiar with the legal procedure the youth will encounter and be prepared to discuss the process with the youth; and
 - d. If the youth is in custody, be familiar with the different types of pre-adjudication release conditions the court may set and whether private or public agencies are available to act as a custodian for the youth's release. The lawyer should also be prepared to discuss the process of ongoing detention review.
5. During an initial interview with the youth, a lawyer should:
 - a. Obtain information concerning:
 - i. The youth's ties to the community including any placement options for a youth being held in detention;
 - ii. The youth's physical and mental health history including any past or current treatment providers, including getting youth and parents (if necessary) to sign releases for records;
 - iii. The youth's educational history, including asking about any special education history. Youth and parents (if necessary) should be asked to sign releases for all educational records;
 - iv. The youth's immediate medical needs and whether those needs are currently being met;
 - v. The youth's mental health needs, including information regarding current medications; the lawyer should ensure that detention facilities have the youth's current prescriptions and that the youth has access to medications while in detention;

- vi. The youth's past involvement with the juvenile system, including but not limited to prior foster care or residential placements, any prior failures to appear for court appearances, any prior runaways, whether the youth is currently on supervision by the juvenile department or Oregon Youth Authority, and the youth's past or present performance under supervision;
- vii. The names of individuals or other sources that counsel can contact to verify information or who would have information about the youth and the youth's permission to contact those individuals;
- viii. Information concerning the youth's arrest, including information regarding any searches or seizures by law enforcement, statements made to law enforcement and the circumstances surrounding such statements, and identification procedures. It is ideal to obtain this information as close in time to the events as possible, as the youth's memory may fade with time;
- ix. Information concerning potential witnesses, video evidence, and any other evidence that requires immediate action to preserve;
- x. Information concerning youth's history that would impact their social, emotional, and neurological development and whether youth's trauma history and brain development impacted the youth's actions and thought-processes;
- b. Provide the youth information including but not limited to:
 - i. An explanation of the procedures that will be followed in setting the conditions of pre-adjudication release;
 - ii. An explanation of the lawyer-youth privilege, including exceptions to the privilege, and instructions not to talk with anyone about the facts of the case without the lawyer present;
 - iii. The allegations and potential disposition alternatives, as well as potential collateral consequences of any adjudication and disposition;
 - iv. A general procedural overview of the progression of the case, where possible;
 - v. Advice that communication with people other than the defense team is not privileged – including parents/guardians – and a warning that if the youth is in custody that communications may be monitored;
 - vi. Discussion of who, if anyone, the youth would like the lawyer to communicate with about the youth and their case and clear limits concerning the type of information that may be shared and with whom.
- 6. A lawyer should use any contact with the youth as an opportunity to gather timely information relevant to preparation of the defense. Such information may include, but it not limited to:
 - a. The topics enumerated in Subsection (a)(6), above;
 - b. Any threats or promises made by law enforcement not previously disclosed;
 - c. Evidence or assessments of the youth's competence to stand trial and mental state at the time of the offense.

STANDARD 2.3 – RELEASE OF YOUTH

- A. A lawyer has a duty to seek release of the youth from detention under the conditions most favorable and acceptable to the youth.**
- B. Release should be sought at the earliest opportunity and if not successful a lawyer should continue to seek release at appropriate subsequent hearings.**

Commentary:

1. If the youth is in detention, the lawyer should review the documents supporting probable cause and, if appropriate, challenge any finding of probable cause. Where detention continues, the lawyer should move for release if appropriate.
2. If the court will not consider release at initial appearance, the lawyer should request a detention release hearing and decision within the statutory time requirements. The lawyers should be familiar with the law and procedures for detention hearings and the risk factors that the court is likely or required to consider.
3. In preparation for the detention hearing the lawyer should discuss statutory release criteria with the youth and prepared to address the court regarding these factors including residence, school attendance, employment, compliance with release conditions such as no contact with alleged victims, and any release compliance monitoring. The lawyer should work with the youth, the youth's parents or caretakers, and the juvenile department to develop an appropriate release plan. The lawyer should seek out services and supports, as appropriate, to augment an appropriate release plan.
4. Where the youth is incarcerated and unable to obtain pretrial release, counsel should alert the court and detention facility to any special medical or psychiatric and security needs of the youth and request that the court order the appropriate officials to take steps to meet such special needs as required.

STANDARD 3.1 – INVESTIGATION

A lawyer has the duty to conduct an independent review of the case, regardless of the youth's admissions or statements to the lawyer of facts constituting an admission or the youth's stated desire to make an admission. Where appropriate, the lawyer should engage in a full investigation, which should be conducted promptly and should include all information necessary to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the case, to prepare the case for trial or hearing, and to advise the youth as to the possibility and consequences of adverse adjudication. A lawyer has a duty to be familiar with the process to request funding for an investigator from OPDC if they do not have access to an in-house investigator, and whenever possible should avoid taking on investigations themselves that could cause them to be a witness in the case. The lawyer should not knowingly use illegal means to obtain evidence or instruct others to do so.

Commentary:

1. A lawyer should obtain copies of all petitions pending against the youth and should examine them to determine the specific allegations that have been brought against the youth.
2. A lawyer should conduct multiple meetings or interviews with the youth to elicit the necessary information as described in Standard 2.2. The meetings should be tailored to meet the developmental needs of the youth, including the need to accommodate for learning differences or attention difficulties. All meetings need to proceed at the pace determined by the youth, especially youth with attention deficiencies. The interview should be used to identify:
 - a. Additional sources of information concerning the incidents or events giving rise to the allegations and to any defenses;
 - b. Evidence concerning improper conduct or practices by law enforcement, juvenile authorities, mental health departments or the prosecution, which may affect the youth's rights or the admissibility of evidence;
 - c. Information relevant to the court's jurisdiction;
 - d. Information relevant to pretrial or prehearing release and possible pretrial or prehearing disposition;
 - e. The youth's mental health needs and the need for expert evaluations, including evaluations to assess youth's ability to aid and assist in their defense;
 - f. Information relevant to youth's social, educational, and mental health history, including history of involvement with social services and any other information relevant to mitigation; and
 - g. Information relevant to disposition and potential consequences of adverse adjudication.

3. A lawyer should consider whether to interview potential witnesses, whether adverse, neutral, or favorable, and when new evidence is revealed during the course of witness interviews, the lawyer should locate and assess its value to the youth. Witness interviews should be conducted by an investigator or in the presence of a third person who will be available, if necessary, to testify as a defense witness at the trial or hearing. When speaking with third parties, the lawyer has a duty to comply with the Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct. Including Rule 3.4 (Fairness to Opposing Party and Counsel), 4.1 (Truthfulness in Statements to Others), 4.2 (Communication with Person Represented by Counsel), and 4.3 (Dealing with Unrepresented Persons). The lawyer also has a duty, where appropriate, to comply with statutory rights or victims, such as those embodied in ORS 419C.273 and 419C.276ORS 135.970(2) and (3).
4. A lawyer should attempt to interview all law enforcement officers involved in the investigation of the case and taking the youth into custody and should obtain all pertinent information in the possession of the prosecution, juvenile authorities, or law enforcement, including, law enforcement personnel records and documentation of prior officer misconduct. In cases involving child witnesses or victims, the lawyer should seek records of counseling sessions with those children. The lawyer should pursue formal and informal discovery with authorities as described in Standard 4.1.
5. Where appropriate, a lawyer should inspect the scene of the alleged offense under circumstances (including weather, lighting conditions, and time of day) as similar as possible to those existing at the time of the alleged incident.
6. A lawyer should obtain school, mental health, medical, drug and alcohol, immigration, prior criminal offense records, juvenile records, and child welfare records of the youth and witnesses.
7. A lawyer should always consider whether to reduce investigation to writing and should instruct their investigators to only do so after consultation with the lawyer.
8. A lawyer may not intentionally destroy evidence in a case and must comply with all statutes governing discovery to the prosecution.

STANDARD 3.2 – EXPERTS

A lawyer should immediately and continually evaluate the need for experts in the case and should attempt to obtain any necessary expert for consultation or testimony or both. A lawyer must be aware of available experts that may be needed to properly litigate their case. A lawyer has a duty to be familiar with the process to request funding for experts from OPDC.

Commentary:

1. Lawyers should consider using engagement letters for any expert used on their case that clearly outline the lawyer's expectations of the expert, privilege rules, and an understanding of the expert's duty of confidentiality.
2. A lawyer should be aware of the appeals process if OPDC denies funding the lawyer believes is reasonably required for the case.
3. A lawyer should be familiar with the available experts in fields that routinely arise in delinquency cases and should have an available professional network to assist in evaluating and obtaining needed experts.
4. Lawyers should independently evaluate the quality of an expert prior to engagement and should consider any evidence that would be available to the prosecution to impeach that expert. Lawyers should review this evaluation regularly, even with frequently used experts.
5. A lawyer should understand the difference between an expert used to advise the defense team and an expert used to testify and how to assure that an advisory expert does not unintentionally shift to a testimonial expert and require disclosure to the prosecution.
6. A lawyer should adequately prepare all trial experts for testimony, including likely questions on cross-examination.

STANDARD 4.1 – DISCOVERY

A lawyer has the duty to pursue formal and informal discovery in a prompt fashion and to continue to pursue opportunities for discovery throughout the case. A lawyer must be familiar with all applicable statutes, rules, and case law governing discovery, including those concerning the processes for filing motions to compel discovery or to preserve evidence, as well as those making sanctions available when the prosecution has engaged in discovery violations.

Commentary:

1. A lawyer should be familiar with and observe the applicable statutes, rules and case law governing the obligation of the defense to provide discovery. A lawyer should file motions for protective orders or otherwise resist discovery where a lawful basis exists to shield information in the possession of the defense from disclosure.
2. A lawyer should make a prompt and comprehensive demand for discovery pursuant to applicable rules and constitutional provisions and should continually seek all information to which the youth is entitled, especially any exculpatory, impeaching and mitigating evidence. Discovery should include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Potentially exculpatory, impeaching and mitigating information;
 - b. Law enforcement reports and notes, 911 recordings and transcripts, inter-officer transmissions, dispatch reports, and reports or notes of searches or seizures and the circumstances in which they were accomplished;
 - c. Written communications, including emails, between prosecution, law enforcement and witnesses;
 - d. Names and addresses of prosecution witnesses, their prior statements, their prior criminal records, and their relevant digital, electronic, and social media postings;
 - e. Oral or written statements by the youth and the circumstances under which those statements were made;
 - f. The youth's prior juvenile records and evidence of any other misconduct that the prosecution may intend to use against the youth;
 - g. Copies or, or the opportunity to inspect books, papers, documents, photographs, computer data, tangible objects, buildings or places, and other material relevant to the case;
 - h. Results or reports of physical or mental examinations, and of scientific tests or experiments, and the data and documents on which they are based;
 - i. Statements and reports of experts and the data and documents on which they are based; and
 - j. Statements of co-youth.
3. A lawyer should consider filing motions seeking to preserve evidence where it is at risk of being destroyed or altered.
4. A lawyer should consider issuing subpoenas where necessary to obtain favorable evidence and should file motions as necessary to obtain otherwise protected or confidential information necessary for the youth's defense (such as video and documentary evidence from child abuse centers, alleged victims' counseling records, child welfare records related to the allegations, and any other protected records relevant to the youth's defense).
5. A lawyer should review all discovery with the youth and be prepared to answer all youth's questions and explain the relevance of the discovery to the case.

6. Lawyers should not rely on discovery to provide all information in the case and should not assume that prosecutors are compliant with discovery obligations unless the lawyer has verified the compliance.

STANDARD 4.2 – THEORY OF THE CASE

A lawyer should develop and continually reassess a theory of the youth's case that advances the youth's goals and encompasses the realities of the youth's situation.

Commentary:

1. A lawyer should use the theory of the case when evaluating strategic choices throughout the course of representation.
2. A lawyer should be able to concisely explain the theory of the case to a lay person.
3. A lawyer should allow the theory of the case to focus the investigation and trial or hearing preparation, seeking out and developing facts and evidence that the theory makes material.
4. A lawyer should remain flexible enough to modify or abandon the theory if it does not serve the youth.

STANDARD 5.1 – PRETRIAL MOTIONS AND NOTICES

A lawyer should research, prepare, file, and argue appropriate pretrial motions and notices. A lawyer must be knowledgeable of all motion and notice deadlines that may apply to their case. Lawyers may not miss filing deadlines.

Commentary:

1. The decision to file a particular pretrial motion or notice should be made by the lawyer after thorough investigation, discussion with their client, and after considering the applicable law under the circumstances of the case.
2. Among the issues the lawyer should consider addressing in pretrial motions are:
 - a. The pre-adjudication custody of the youth;
 - b. The competency or fitness to proceed of the youth (see Standard 5.3);
 - c. The constitutionality of relevant statutes;
 - d. Potential defects in the charging process or instrument;
 - e. The sufficiency of the charging document;
 - f. The severance of charges or co-youth for trial;
 - g. Change of venue;

- h. The removal of a judicial officer from the case through requests for recusal or the filing of an affidavit of prejudice;
 - i. The discovery obligations of both the prosecution and the defense, including:
 - i. Motions for protective orders;
 - ii. *Brady v. Maryland* motions; and
 - iii. Motions to compel discovery.
 - j. Violations of federal or state constitutional or statutory provisions, including:
 - i. Illegal searches or seizures;
 - ii. Involuntary statements or confessions;
 - iii. Statements obtained in violation of the right to counsel or
 - iv. privilege against self-incrimination;
 - v. Unreliable identification evidence;
 - vi. Unreliable scientific or pseudoscientific evidence;
 - vii. Speedy trial rights; and
 - viii. Double jeopardy protections.
 - k. Requests for—and challenges to denials of—funding for access to reasonable and necessary resources and experts;
 - l. The right to a continuance to adequately prepare and present a defense or to respond to prosecution motions;
 - m. Matters of trial evidence that may be appropriately litigated by means of a pretrial motion *in limine*, including:
 - i. The competency or admissibility of particular witnesses, including experts and children;
 - ii. The use of prior convictions for impeachment purposes;
 - iii. The use of prior or subsequent bad acts;
 - iv. The use of reputation or other character evidence; and
 - v. The use of evidence subject to “rape shield” and similar protections.
 - n. Notices of affirmative defenses and other required notices to present particular evidence;
 - o. The dismissal of charges on the basis of civil compromise, best interests of a youth, in the furtherance of justice, or the general equitable powers of the court.
3. Before deciding not to file a motion or to withdraw a motion already filed, a lawyer should carefully consider all facts in the case, applicable law, case strategy and other relevant information, including:
- a. The burden of proof, the potential advantages, and disadvantages of having witnesses testify under oath at pretrial hearings and to what extent a pretrial hearing reveals defense strategy to a youth’s detriment;
 - b. Whether a pretrial motion may be necessary to protect the youth’s rights against later claims of waiver, procedural default, or failure to preserve an issue for later appeal;
 - c. The effect the filing of a motion may have upon the youth’s speedy trial rights; and

- d. Whether other objectives, in addition to the ultimate relief requested by a motion, may be served by the filing and litigation of a particular motion.

STANDARD 5.2 – FILING AND ARGUING PRETRIAL MOTIONS

A lawyer should file all pretrial motions in a timely fashion, should have knowledge of local court rules, and should comport with those rules to the extent possible. A lawyer should prepare for a motion hearing just as they would prepare for trial, including preparing for the presentation of evidence, exhibits, and witnesses.

Commentary:

1. Motions should succinctly inform the court of the authority relied upon.
2. When a hearing on a motion requires taking evidence, or when the taking of evidence is advantageous to the youth's position, a lawyer's preparation should include:
 - a. Investigation, discovery, and research relevant to the claims advanced;
 - b. Subpoenaing all helpful evidence and witnesses including those also subpoenaed by the prosecution;
 - c. Preparing witnesses to testify;
 - d. Fully understanding the applicable burdens of proof, evidentiary principles and court procedures, including the costs and benefits of having the youth or other witnesses testify and be subject to cross examination; and
 - e. A consideration of the record being made for the purposes of an adjudication proceeding in addition to the underlying motion.
3. After a hearing during which evidence is taken an attorney should request the FTR recording of the hearing and have transcriptions made.
4. A lawyer should consider the strategy of submitting proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law to the court at the conclusion of the hearing.
5. After an adverse ruling, a lawyer should consider seeking interlocutory relief, if available, taking necessary steps to perfect an appeal, and renewing the motion or objection during trial to preserve the matter for appeal.

STANDARD 5.3 – PRETRIAL DETERMINATION OF YOUTH’S FITNESS TO PROCEED

A lawyer must be able to recognize when a youth may not be competent to stand trial due to mental health disorders, developmental immaturity, and developmental or intellectual disabilities, and take appropriate action. The lawyer’s responsibility to evaluate and recognize their client’s competence is ongoing throughout the case. Lawyers must take appropriate action to address youth’s competency as soon as possible.

Commentary:

1. A lawyer should assess whether the youth’s level of functioning limits their ability to communicate effectively with counsel, as well as their ability to have a factual and rational understanding of the proceedings.
2. When a lawyer has reason to doubt the youth’s competency to stand trial, the lawyer should request funding for a retained psychological examination of the youth as well as gather collateral information related to the youth’s mental health. The lawyer should consider filing a pretrial motion requesting a competency evaluation only if a private evaluation cannot be obtained. The lawyer should discuss the issue of competency with the youth and explain the purpose of a competency evaluation, along with the potential outcomes of a competency evaluation.
3. Lawyers should seek prior psychological examinations of the youth as well as other records relating to their client’s prior commitments, mental health evaluations, or diagnoses. Lawyers may use those records at the lawyer’s discretion in any proceeding relating to the youth’s ability to aid and assist in their own defense.
4. The right to be able to aid and assist in their own defense is a core right of the youth. If a lawyer has reason to doubt their client’s fitness to proceed the lawyer has an obligation to take appropriate action to determine the youth’s fitness. If a lawyer has concerns regarding a youth’s capacity the lawyer must consider and, if possible, discuss with their client:
 - a. His or her obligations under Oregon Rule of Professional Conduct 1.14, to maintain a normal attorney-youth relationship, to the extent possible, with a youth with diminished capacity; and
 - b. The likely consequences of a finding of incompetence and whether there are other ways to resolve the case, such as dismissal upon obtaining services for the youth or referral to other agencies.
5. If the lawyer decides to proceed with a competency hearing, they should secure the services of a qualified expert in accordance with Standard 3.2.

6. Lawyers should keep up to date with developments concerning the Oregon State Hospital, federal litigation involving the State's handling of youths found unfit to proceed, and any legislative changes to the statutory framework of fitness.
7. If a court finds a youth incompetent to proceed, a lawyer should seek to resolve the delinquency case by having the petition converted to a dependency petition or through a motion to dismiss in the best interests of the youth. A lawyer should maintain contact with the youth during the restorative services process, including being present for any evaluations, as appropriate to achieve youth's stated interest.
8. If a court finds a youth incompetent to proceed, a lawyer should advocate for the least restrictive level of supervision and the least intrusive treatment available that will restore the youth to fitness.
9. If a court finds a youth is competent to proceed, a lawyer should continue to raise the matter during the course of the proceedings if the lawyer has a concern about the youth's continuing competency to proceed and in order to preserve the matter for appeal.

STANDARD 5.4 – CONTINUING OBLIGATIONS TO FILE OR RENEW PRETRIAL MOTIONS OR NOTICES

A lawyer should be prepared to raise any issue which is appropriately raised pretrial but could not have been so raised because the facts supporting the motion were unknown or not reasonably available. Counsel should also be prepared to renew a pretrial motion if new supporting information is disclosed in later proceedings.

STANDARD 6.1 – EXPLORING DISPOSITION WITHOUT TRIAL

A lawyer has the duty to explore with the youth the possibility, advisability, and consequences of reaching a negotiated disposition of charges or a disposition without trial. A lawyer has the duty to be familiar with the laws, local practices, and consequences concerning dispositions without trial. A lawyer cannot accept any negotiated settlement or agree to enter into any non-trial disposition without the youth's express authorization.

Commentary:

1. A lawyer should explore and consider restorative justice options, civil compromise, diversion, Formal Accountability Agreements, having the case filed as a dependency case, alternative dispositions including conditional postponements, motions to dismiss in the interests of justice, negotiated admissions or disposition agreements, and other non-trial dispositions.

2. A lawyer should explain to the youth the strengths and weaknesses of the prosecution's case and the defense case, the benefits and consequences of considering a non-trial disposition, any investigation which has been or could be conducted, and discuss with the youth any options that may be available to the youth and the rights the youth gives up by pursuing a non-trial disposition.
3. A lawyer should assist the youth in weighing whether there are strategic advantages to be gained by making an admission or continuing to trial.
4. With the consent of the youth, a lawyer should explore with the prosecutor and the juvenile court counselor, when appropriate, available options to resolve the case without trial. The lawyer should obtain information about the position the prosecutor and juvenile court counselor will take as to non-admission dispositions and recommendations that will be made about disposition. Throughout negotiation, a lawyer must zealously advocate for the expressed interests of the youth, including advocating for some benefit for the youth in exchange for an admission.
5. A lawyer cannot accept any negotiated settlement or agree to enter into any non-trial disposition without the youth's express authorization. The lawyer must attempt to ensure that the youth has adequate time to consider the plea and alternative options. A lawyer should advise youths about their opinion of any plea offers but may not substitute their judgement for that of their client.
6. A lawyer must keep the youth fully informed of continued negotiations and convey to the youth any offers made by the prosecution or recommendations by the juvenile court counselor for a negotiated settlement. The lawyer must assure that the youth has adequate time to consider the proposed admission and alternative options. The terms of any proposed settlement must be explained to the youth in a clear, developmentally appropriate manner and the lawyer should exercise care that the youth understands the terms of the settlement as well as the consequences of the proposed settlement. The lawyer should also ensure that the youth has the opportunity to consult with trusted adults regarding the proposed admission and alternative options and should, with permission, explain to the trusted adult the terms of the settlement.
7. A lawyer should continue to take steps necessary to preserve the youth's rights and advance the youth's defenses even while engaging in settlement negotiations.
8. Before conducting negotiations, a lawyer should be familiar with:
 - a. The types, advantages and disadvantages, and applicable procedures and requirements of available admissions to juvenile court jurisdiction, including an admission of being within the jurisdiction of the court, no contest, a conditional admission of jurisdiction

- that reserves the right to appeal certain issues, and an admission in which the youth is not required to acknowledge guilt (*Alford* plea);
- b. Whether agreements between the youth and the prosecution would be binding on the court or on the juvenile, parole and probation, and immigration authorities; and
 - c. The practices and policies of the particular prosecuting authorities, juvenile authorities, and judge that may affect the content and likely results of any negotiated settlement.
9. A lawyer should be aware of, advise the youth of, and, where appropriate, seek to mitigate the following, where relevant:
- a. Rights that the youth would waive when making an admission disposing of the case without a trial;
 - b. The minimum and maximum term of incarceration that may be ordered, including whether the minimum disposition would be indeterminate, and probation or post-confinement supervision.
 - c. The minimum and maximum fines and assessments, court costs that may be ordered as well as options for waiving, deferring, or paying fines by installments, and any restitution that is being requested by the victim(s);
 - d. Arguments to eliminate or reduce fines, assessments and court costs, challenges to liability for and the amount of restitution, the possibilities of civil action by the victims, asset forfeiture, and the availability of work programs to pay restitution and perform community service;
 - e. Consequences related to previous offenses;
 - f. The availability and possible conditions of conditional postponement, probation, and parole;
 - g. The availability and possible conditions of alternative dispositions and formal accountability agreements;
 - h. For non-citizen youth, the possibility of temporary and permanent immigration relief through the available legislative or administrative immigration programs and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status;
 - i. For non-citizen youths, the possibility of adverse immigration consequences;
 - j. For non-citizen youths, the possibility of criminal consequences of illegal re-entry following adjudications and deportation;
 - k. The possibility of other consequences of adjudication, such as:
 - i. Requirements for sex offender registration, relief, and set-aside;
 - ii. DNA sampling, AIDS, and STD testing;
 - iii. Effect on driver's or professional licenses and on firearm possession;
 - iv. Loss of public benefits;
 - v. Loss of housing, education, financial aid, career, employment, vocational, or military service opportunities; and

- vi. Risk of enhanced sentences for future adult convictions, including familiarity with the Oregon Sentencing Guidelines;
- m. The possible place and manner of confinement, placement or commitment;
- n. The availability of pre- and post-adjudication diversion programs and treatment programs;
- o. The confidentiality of juvenile records and the availability of expungement.

10. A lawyer should identify negotiation goals with the following in mind:

- a. Concessions that the youth might offer to the prosecution, including an agreement:
 - i. Not to contest jurisdiction;
 - ii. Not to dispute the merits of some or all of the charges;
 - iii. Not to assert or litigate certain rights or issues;
 - iv. To fulfill conditions of restitution, rehabilitation, treatment, or community service;
 - v. To provide assistance to law enforcement or juvenile authorities in investigating and prosecuting other alleged wrongful activity.
- b. Benefits to the youth, including an agreement:
 - i. That the prosecution will recommend a reduced sentence upon adjudication compared with the likely sentence after adjudication at trial;
 - ii. That the prosecutor will accept a plea to a lesser charge or dismiss remaining charges upon a plea;
 - iii. That the prosecution will agree to continue juvenile court jurisdiction;
 - iv. That the prosecution will not oppose release pending disposition or appeal;
 - v. That the youth may reserve the right to contest certain issues;
 - vi. To dismiss or reduce charges immediately or upon completion of certain conditions;
 - vii. That the youth will not be subject to further investigation or prosecution for uncharged conduct;
 - viii. That the youth will receive, subject to the court's agreement, a specified set or range of sanctions; or
 - ix. That the prosecution will take, or refrain from taking, a specified position with respect to sanctions.

11. A lawyer has the duty to inform the youth of the full content of any tentative negotiated settlement or non-trial disposition, and to explain to the youth the advantages, disadvantages, and potential consequences of the settlement or disposition. A lawyer should discuss with the youth whether the youth wishes to counter the proposed settlement and promptly convey any counter-offer to the prosecution.

12. A lawyer should not recommend that the youth enter a dispositional admission unless appropriate investigation and evaluation of the case has taken place, including an analysis of controlling law and the evidence likely to be introduced if that case were to go forward.

STANDARD 6.2 – ENTRY OF ADMISSION TO JURISDICTION

A decision to enter an admission to the allegation(s) rests solely with the youth. The lawyer must not unduly influence the decision to enter an admission and must ensure that the youth's acceptance of the negotiated admission is voluntary and knowing and reflects an intelligent understanding of the admission and the rights the youth will forfeit.

Commentary:

1. A lawyer has the duty to explain to the youth the advantages, disadvantages, and consequences of resolving the case by admitting to the allegations.
2. A lawyer has the duty to explain to the youth the nature of the hearing at which the youth will enter the admission and the role that the youth will play in the hearing, including participating in the colloquy to determine voluntary waiver of rights and answering other questions from the court and making a statement concerning the offense. The lawyer should be familiar with the Model Colloquy for juvenile waiver of the right to trial. The lawyer should explain to the youth that the court may in some cases reject the admission.
3. If during the admission hearing, the youth does not understand questions being asked by the court, the lawyer must request a recess to assist the youth.

STANDARD 7.1 – GENERAL TRIAL PREPARATION

- A. **A juvenile adjudicatory hearing (herein referred to as a trial) is a complex event requiring preparation, knowledge of applicable law and procedure, and skill. A defense lawyer must be prepared on the law and facts, and competently plan a challenge to the state's case and, where appropriate, presentation of a defense case.**
- B. **A lawyer should develop, in consultation with the youth and members of the defense team, an overall defense strategy for the conduct of the trial.**
- C. **A lawyer must, in advance of trial, subpoena necessary witnesses, and develop outlines or plans for opening, closing, anticipated cross examinations, and direct examinations.**

Commentary:

1. A lawyer should ordinarily have the following materials available for use at trial:
 - a. Copies of all relevant documents filed in the case;
 - b. Relevant documents prepared by investigators;
 - c. An outline or draft of opening statement;
 - d. Cross-examination plans for all possible prosecution witnesses;

- e. Direct examination plans for all prospective defense witnesses;
 - f. Copies of defense subpoenas;
 - g. Prior statements of all prosecution witnesses (e.g., transcripts, police reports);
 - h. Prior statements of all defense witnesses;
 - i. Reports from experts;
 - j. The CVs of any experts expected to testify at trial;
 - k. Training and other available records for any law enforcement officers who are expected to testify;
 - l. A list of all exhibits and the witnesses through whom they will be introduced;
 - m. Originals and copies of all documentary exhibits;
 - n. Copies of all relevant statutes and cases;
 - o. Evidence codes and relevant statutes and/or compilations of evidence rules and criminal or juvenile law most likely to be relevant to the case;
 - p. Outline or draft of closing argument; and
 - q. Trial memoranda outlining any complex legal issues or factual problems the court may need to decide during the trial.
2. A lawyer should be fully informed as to the rules of evidence, the law relating to all stages of the trial process, and be familiar with legal and evidentiary issues that can reasonably be anticipated to arise in the trial. The lawyer should analyze potential prosecution evidence for admissibility problems and develop strategies for challenging evidence. The lawyer should be prepared to address objections to defense testimony. The lawyer should be prepared to raise affirmative defenses as applicable. The lawyer should consider requesting that witnesses be excluded from the trial.
 3. A lawyer should evaluate whether expert testimony is necessary and beneficial to the youth. If so, the lawyer should seek an appropriate expert witness and prepare the witness to testify, including possible areas of cross examination.
 4. A lawyer should decide if it is beneficial to secure an advance ruling on issues likely to arise at trial and, where appropriate, the lawyer should prepare motions and memoranda for such advance rulings.
 5. Throughout the trial process, a lawyer should advise the youth as to suitable courtroom dress and demeanor.
 6. A lawyer should plan with the youth the most convenient system for conferring privately throughout the trial; where necessary, a lawyer should seek a court order to have the youth available for conferences. A lawyer should, where necessary, secure the services of a competent interpreter or translator for the youth during all trial proceedings.
 7. Throughout preparation and trial, a lawyer should consider the potential effects that actions may have upon disposition if there is a finding that the youth is

within the jurisdiction of the court. A lawyer should discuss the risks of those actions with their client.

8. As soon as practicable after appointment, a lawyer should consider whether the assistance of a co-counsel, associate counsel, or second chair would be beneficial to the youth or required by OPDC and, if so, attempt to obtain approval for the same as soon as possible.

STANDARD 7.2 – OPENING STATEMENT

An opening statement is a lawyer’s first opportunity to present the defense case. The lawyer should be prepared to present a coherent statement of the defense theory based on evidence likely to be admitted at trial and should raise and, if necessary, preserve for appeal any objections to the prosecutor’s opening statement.

Commentary:

1. Prior to delivering an opening statement, a lawyer should ask that the witnesses be excluded from the courtroom, unless a strategic reason exists for not doing so.
2. A lawyer’s objective in making an opening statement may include the following:
 - a. Provide an overview of the defense case emphasizing the defense theme and theory of the case;
 - b. Identify the weaknesses of the prosecution’s case;
 - c. Emphasize the prosecution’s burden of proof;
 - d. Summarize the testimony of witnesses and the role of each witness in relationship to the entire case;
 - e. Describe the exhibits which will be introduced and the role of each exhibit in relationship to the entire case
 - f. State the ultimate inferences which the lawyer wishes the judge to draw; and
 - g. Humanize the youth.
3. A lawyer should listen attentively during the state’s opening statement in order to raise objections and note potential promises of proof made by the state that could be used in summation.
4. A lawyer should consider incorporating the promises of proof the prosecutor makes during opening statement in the defense summation.
5. Whenever the prosecutor oversteps the bounds of a proper opening statement, a lawyer should consider objecting or requesting a mistrial unless tactical considerations

weigh against any such objections or requests. Such tactical considerations may include, but are not limited to:

- a. The significance of the prosecutor's error;
 - b. The possibility that an objection might enhance the significance of the information in the judge's mind;
 - c. Whether there are any rulings made by the judge against objecting during the other attorney's opening statement.
6. A lawyer should give an opening statement in all cases unless there is a strong tactical reason not to. Lawyers may consider deferring opening statements until the beginning of the defense case.

STANDARD 7.3 – CONFRONTING THE PROSECUTION'S CASE

The essence of the defense is confronting the prosecution's case. The lawyer should develop a theme and theory of the case that directs the manner of conducting this confrontation. Whether it is refuting, discrediting, or diminishing the state's case, the theme and theory should determine the lawyer's course of action.

Commentary:

1. A lawyer should attempt to anticipate weaknesses in the prosecution's proof and consider researching and preparing corresponding motion for judgment of acquittal.
2. A lawyer should consider the advantages and disadvantages of entering into stipulations concerning the prosecution's case.
3. In preparing for cross-examination, a lawyer should be familiar with the applicable law and procedures concerning cross-examination and impeachment of witnesses. A lawyer should be prepared to question witnesses regarding prior statements which they may have made or adopted, documents subject to disclosure, and to develop further material for impeachment beyond what was found during pre-trial investigation.
4. In preparing for cross-examination, a lawyer should:
 - a. Consider the need to integrate cross-examination, the theory of the defense, and closing argument into questions for cross examination;
 - b. Anticipate those witnesses the prosecutor might call in its case-in-chief or in rebuttal;
 - c. Consider whether cross-examination of each individual witness is likely to generate helpful information;
 - d. Consider an impeachment plan for any witnesses who may be impeachable including needed exhibits or transcripts;

- e. Be alert to inconsistencies in a witness's testimony;
 - f. Be alert to possible variations in witness testimony;
 - g. Review all prior statements of the witnesses and any prior relevant testimony of the prospective witnesses;
 - h. If available, review investigation reports of interviews and other information developed about the witnesses;
 - i. Review relevant statutes and police procedural manuals and regulations for possible use in cross-examining police witnesses;
 - j. Be alert to issues relating to witness credibility, including bias and motive for testifying;
 - k. Be prepared with all necessary impeachment documents, including having properly certified and authenticated documents in accordance with evidentiary rules;
 - l. Be mindful of ways that certain topics could "open the door" to state's information that might otherwise be excluded;
 - m. Avoid asking questions that do not advance a defense theory, that allow the witness to provide unhelpful explanations, or questions that the attorney does not know the answer to.
 - n. Whenever possible, ask closed ended leading questions.
5. A lawyer should be aware of the applicable law concerning competency of witnesses and admission of expert testimony to raise appropriate objections.
6. Before beginning cross-examination, a lawyer should ascertain whether the prosecutor has provided copies of all prior statements of the witnesses as required by applicable law. If the lawyer does not receive prior statements of prosecution witnesses until they have completed direct examination, the lawyer should request, at a minimum, adequate time to review these documents before commencing cross-examination.
7. At the close of the prosecution's case, a lawyer should move for a judgment of acquittal on each count alleged, when appropriate. The lawyer should request, when necessary, that the court immediately rule on the motion.

STANDARD 7.4 – PRESENTING THE DEFENSE CASE

A lawyer should be prepared to present evidence at trial where it will advance a defense theory of the case that best serves the interest of the youth.

Commentary:

1. A lawyer should develop, in consultation with the youth and defense team, an overall defense strategy. In deciding on defense strategy, a lawyer should consider whether the youth's interests are best served by not putting on a defense case and instead rely on the prosecution's failure to meet its constitutional burden of proving each element beyond a reasonable doubt.
2. A lawyer should discuss with the youth all of the considerations relevant to the youth's decision whether or not to testify.
3. A lawyer should be aware of the elements of any affirmative defense and know whether the youth bears a burden of persuasion or a burden of production.
4. In preparing for presentation of a defense case, a lawyer should:
 - a. Develop a plan for direct examination of each potential defense witness and assure each witness's attendance by subpoena if necessary;
 - b. Determine the implications that the order of witnesses may have on the defense case;
 - c. Consider the possible use of character witnesses;
 - d. Consider the need for expert witnesses; and
 - e. Consider whether to present a defense based on mental disease, defect, diminished capacity, or partial responsibility, and provide notice of intent to present such evidence and consult with the youth about the implications of an insanity defense.
5. In developing and presenting the defense case, a lawyer should consider the implications it may have for a rebuttal by the prosecutor.
6. A lawyer should prepare all witnesses for direct and possible cross-examination. Where appropriate, a lawyer should also advise witnesses of suitable courtroom dress and demeanor.
7. A lawyer should conduct redirect examination as appropriate.
8. At the close of the defense case, the lawyer should renew the motion for judgment of acquittal on each charged count.
9. A lawyer should be prepared to object to an improper state's rebuttal case and offer surrebuttal witnesses if allowed.

STANDARD 7.5 – CLOSING ARGUMENT

A lawyer should be prepared to deliver a closing summation that presents the trier of fact with compelling reasons to render a verdict for the youth.

Commentary:

1. A lawyer should be familiar with the substantive limits on both prosecution and defense summation.
2. A lawyer should be familiar with local rules and the individual judge's practice concerning time limits and objections during closing argument as well as provisions for rebuttal argument by the prosecution.
3. A lawyer should prepare the outlines of the closing argument prior to the trial and refine the argument at the end of trial by reviewing the proceedings to determine what aspects can be used in support of defense summation and, where appropriate, should consider:
 - a. Highlighting weaknesses in the prosecution's case;
 - b. Describing favorable inferences to be drawn from the evidence;
 - c. What the possible effects of the defense arguments are on the prosecutor's rebuttal argument; and
 - d. Incorporating into the argument:
 - i. Helpful testimony from direct and cross-examinations;
 - ii. Verbatim instructions drawn from the applicable adult criminal jury charge; and
 - iii. Responses to anticipated prosecution arguments.
4. Whenever the prosecutor exceeds the scope of permissible argument, the lawyer should object or request a mistrial unless tactical considerations suggest otherwise.
5. A lawyer should ask the court, even if sufficient evidence is found to support jurisdiction, not to exercise jurisdiction and move to dismiss the petition (or defer finding jurisdiction until after the dispositional hearing) on the ground that jurisdiction is not in the best interests of the youth or society.

STANDARD 8 – OBLIGATIONS OF COUNSEL CONCERNING DISPOSITION

A lawyer must work with the youth to develop a theory of disposition and an individualized disposition plan that is consistent with the youth's desired outcome. The lawyer must present this plan in court and zealously advocate on behalf of the youth for such an outcome.

Commentary:

1. In every delinquency case, a lawyer should:
 - a. Be knowledgeable about the applicable law governing the length and conditions of any applicable disposition, the pertinent dispositional procedures, and inform the youth at the commencement of the case of the potential disposition for the alleged offenses;
 - b. Be aware of the youth's relevant history and circumstances, including physical and mental health needs, and educational needs, and be sensitive to the youth's sexual orientation or gender identity to the extent this history or circumstance impacts dispositional plan;
 - c. Understand and advise the youth concerning the availability of deferred dispositions, conditional discharges, early termination of probation, informal dispositions, alternative disposition including conditional postponement and diversion agreements, and formal accountability agreements;
 - d. Understand and explain to the youth the consequences and conditions that are likely to be imposed as probation requirements or requirements of other dispositions and the potential collateral consequences of any disposition in a case, including the effect of an adjudication on a sentence for any subsequent crime or act that would be a crime if committed by an adult;
 - e. Be knowledgeable about treatment or other programs, out-of-home placement possibilities, including group homes, foster care, residential treatment programs, or mental health treatment facilities that may be required as part of disposition or that are available as an alternative to incarceration or out of home placement for youth that could reduce the length of a youth's time in custody or in out-of-home placement;
 - f. Be knowledgeable about the requirements of placements that receive Title IV-E of the Social Security Act funding through contacts with the Juvenile Departments or the Department of Human Services and be able to request "no reasonable efforts" findings from the juvenile court when it would benefit the youth;
 - g. Develop a plan in conjunction with the youth, supported where appropriate by a written memorandum addressing pertinent legal and factual considerations, that seeks the least restrictive and burdensome disposition which can reasonably be obtained based upon the facts and circumstances for the case and that is acceptable to the youth;
 - h. Where appropriate, obtain assessments or evaluations that support the youth's plan;
 - i. Investigate and prepare to present to a prosecutor when engaged in plea negotiations or to the court at disposition available mitigating evidence and other favorable information that might benefit the youth at disposition;
 - j. Ensure that the court does not consider inaccurate information or immaterial information harmful to the youth in determining the disposition to be imposed;
 - k. Be aware of and prepare to address explicit or implicit bias that impacts disposition; and
 - l. Review the accuracy of any temporary or final disposition order of judgments of the court and move the court to correct any errors that disadvantage the youth.

2. In understanding the disposition applicable to a youth's case, a lawyer should:
 - a. Be familiar with the law and any applicable administrative rules governing the length of disposition and be familiar with the juvenile code and case law language that supports a less restrictive disposition that best meets the expressed needs of the youth;
 - b. Be knowledgeable about potential court-imposed financial obligations, both direct and in-direct, including restitution and payments for treatment services, and, where appropriate, challenge the imposition of such obligations when not supported by the facts or law;
 - c. Be familiar with the operation of indeterminate disposition and the law governing credit for pretrial detention, time limits on post-disposition juvenile detention and out-of-home placement, as well the length of time and usual conditions of juvenile parole;
 - d. As warranted by the circumstances of a case, consult with experts concerning the collateral consequence of a juvenile adjudication on a youth's immigration status or other collateral consequences of concern to the youth e.g., civil disabilities, sex-offender registration, disqualification for types of employment, consequences related to the child welfare system, DNA and HIV testing, military opportunities, availability of public assistance, school loans and housing and enhanced sentences or dispositions for future convictions or adjudications;
 - e. Be familiar with statutes and relevant cases from state and federal appellate courts governing legal issues pertinent to disposition; and
 - f. Advance other available legal arguments that support the least restrictive and burdensome sentence.
3. In understanding the applicable dispositional hearing procedures, a lawyer should:
 - a. Determine the effect that admission negotiations may have on the disposition discretion of the court;
 - b. Understand the availability of other evidentiary hearings to challenge inaccurate or misleading information that might harm the youth, to present evidence favorable to the youth and ascertain the applicable rules of evidence and burdens of proof at such a hearing;
 - c. Undertake other available avenues to present legal and factual information to the court that might benefit the youth and challenge information harmful to the youth.
4. In advocating for the least restrictive or burdensome disposition for a youth, a lawyer should:
 - a. Inform the youth of the applicable dispositional requirements, options, and alternatives, including liability for restitution and other potential financial obligations and the methods of collection and consequences of non-payment;
 - b. Maintain regular contact with the youth before the dispositional hearing and keep the youth informed of the steps being taken in preparation of disposition and work with the youth to develop a theory for the disposition phase of the case;

- c. Obtain from the youth and others information such as the youth's background and personal history, prior juvenile record, employment history and skills, education and current school issues, medical history and condition, mental health issues and mental health treatment history, current and historical substance abuse history and treatment, and what, if any, relationship there is between the youth's acts that would be crimes if committed by an adult and the youth's medical, mental health, or substance abuse issues and the sources through which the information can be corroborated;
- d. Determine with the youth whether to obtain a psychiatric, psychological, educational, neurological, or other evaluation for dispositional purposes;
- e. If the youth is being evaluated or assessed, whether by the state or at the lawyer's request, provide the evaluator in advance with background information about the youth and request that the evaluator address the youth's emotional, educational, and other needs as well as alternative dispositions that will best meet those needs and society's needs for protection;
- f. Prepare the youth for any evaluations or interviews conducted for disposition purposes;
- g. Be familiar with and, where appropriate, challenge the validity and reliability of any risk assessment tools;
- h. Investigate any disputed information related to disposition, including restitution claims;
- i. Inform the youth of the youth's right to address the court at disposition and, if the youth chooses to do so, prepare the youth to personally address the court, including advice of the possible consequences that admission of responsibility may have on an appeal, retrial, or trial on other matters;
- j. Ensure the youth has adequate time prior to disposition hearing to examine any dispositional report, or other documents and evidence that will be submitted to the court at disposition;
- k. Prepare a written disposition plan that the lawyer and the youth agree will achieve the youth's goals;
- l. Be prepared to present documents, affidavits, letters, and other information including witnesses that support a disposition favorable to the youth;
- m. As supported by the facts and circumstances of the case and youth, challenge any conditions of probation or parole that are not reasonably related to the adjudicated acts, the protection of the public or reformation of the youth;
- n. Be prepared to present evidence on the reasonableness of Oregon Youth Authority, Juvenile Department or Department of Human Services efforts that could have been made concerning the disposition and, when supported by the evidence, request a "no reasonable efforts" finding by the court;
- o. After the court has found jurisdiction, move the court, when supported by the facts, to not exercise jurisdiction and dismiss the petition, amend the petition, or find jurisdiction on fewer than all charges, on the ground that jurisdiction is not in the best interests of the youth or society;

- p. Be familiar with the obligations of the court and district attorney regarding statutory or constitutional victims' rights and, where appropriate, ensure that the record reflects compliance with those obligations;
- q. Take any other steps that are necessary to advocated fully for the disposition requested by the youth and to protect the interests of the youth; and
- r. Advise the youth about the obligations and duration of disposition conditions imposed by the court, and the consequences of failure to comply with orders of the court. Where appropriate, counsel should confer with the youth's parents regarding the disposition process to obtain their support for the youth's proposed disposition.

STANDARD 9.1 – CONSEQUENCES OF PLEA ON APPEAL

In addition to direct and collateral consequences, a lawyer should be familiar with, and advise the youth of, the consequences of an admission to juvenile court jurisdiction on the youth's ability to successfully challenge the conviction, juvenile adjudication, sentence, or disposition in an appellate proceeding.

Commentary:

1. A lawyer should be familiar with the effects of a guilty plea, admission to juvenile court jurisdiction, or a no contest plea on the various forms of appeal.
2. During discussions with the youth regarding a possible admission, plea of guilty, or no contest, a lawyer must inform the youth of the consequences of such a plea on any potential appeals.
3. A lawyer should be familiar with the procedural requirements of the various types of pleas, including the conditional admission, that affect the possibility of appeal.

STANDARD 9.2 – PRESERVATION OF ISSUES FOR APPELLATE REVIEW

A lawyer should be familiar with the requirements for preserving issues for appellate review. A lawyer should discuss the various forms of appellate review with the youth and apprise the youth of which issues have been preserved for review.

Commentary:

1. A lawyer must know the requirements for preserving issues for review on direct appeal and in federal habeas corpus proceedings.
2. A lawyer should review with the youth those issues that have been preserved for appellate review and the prospects for a successful appeal.

STANDARD 9.3 – POST SENTENCING AND DISPOSITION PROCEDURES

A lawyer should be familiar with procedures that are available to the youth after disposition. A lawyer should explain those procedures to the youth, discern the youth's interests and choices, and be prepared to zealously advocate for the youth.

Commentary:

1. Upon entry of judgment, a lawyer should immediately review the judgment to ensure that it reflects the oral pronouncement of the sentence or disposition and is otherwise free of legal or factual error. A lawyer should ensure that the judgment includes the disposition probation plan, including any actions to be taken by parents, guardians, or custodians.
2. The lawyer must be knowledgeable concerning the application and procedural requirements of a motion for new trial or motion to correct the judgment.
3. The lawyer should be versed in relevant case law, statutes, court rules, and administrative procedures regarding the enforcement of disposition orders, as well as the methods of filing motions for post-disposition and post-adjudicatory relief, for excusal or relief from sex offender registration requirements, and to review, reopen, modify, or set aside adjudicative and dispositional orders. For youth whose circumstances have changed; youth whose health, safety, or welfare is at risk; or youth not receiving services as directed by the court, a lawyer should file motions for early discharge or dismissal of probation or commitment, early release from detention, or modification of the court order. Where commitment is indeterminate and youth correctional authorities have discretion over whether and when to release a youth from secure custody, when the period of incarceration becomes excessive the lawyer should advocate to terminate or limit the term of commitment, if desired by the youth.

STANDARD 9.4 – MAINTAIN REGULAR CONTACT WITH YOUTH

A. A lawyer for a youth in delinquency proceedings should stay in contact with the youth following disposition and continue representation while the youth remains under court or agency jurisdiction.

B. A lawyer should inform a youth of procedures available for requesting a discretionary review of, or reduction in, the sentence or disposition imposed by the trial court, including any time limitations that apply to such a request.

Commentary:

1. The lawyer should assure a youth that the lawyer will continue to advocate on the youth's behalf regarding post-disposition hearings, including probation reviews and

probation or parole violation hearings, challenges to conditions of confinement, and other legal issues, especially when the youth is incarcerated. The lawyer should also provide advocacy to get the youth's record expunged or to obtain relief from sex offender registration.

2. Lawyers for youth convicted as adults but who were under 18 years of age at the time of the offense should be familiar with and inform the youth of the "second look" provisions of ORS 420A.203 and ORS 420A.206.
3. To stay in regular contact with an adjudicated youth, a lawyer should have contact with the youth at least quarterly and before any court hearings.

STANDARD 9.5 – REPRESENTING A YOUTH PURSUANT TO ORS 419C.615

A lawyer appointed to represent a youth in a claim for juvenile post adjudication relief pursuant to ORS 419C.615 should be familiar with and able to meet the performance standards set forth in the Oregon State Bar Performance Standards for Post-Conviction Relief Practitioners.

A lawyer appointed to represent a youth in a claim for juvenile post adjudication relief pursuant to ORS 419C.615 should be sufficiently familiar with youth development and the standards for representation of youth in delinquency matters to identify possible shortcomings in the representation or process.

Counsel should conduct a thorough and independent investigation of the validity of the underlying adjudication, disposition, and, when applicable, appellate proceedings. Counsel's investigation should examine the entire delinquency case for evidence of a substantial denial of state or federal constitutional rights in the trial level or appellate proceedings.

Counsel should ordinarily not have represented the petitioner during the underlying delinquency case or direct appeal since the post-adjudication proceeding may be the only opportunity to raise claims of ineffective or inadequate assistance of trial and appellate counsel.

Commentary:

1. Counsel should not undertake representation in a juvenile post-adjudication relief proceeding unless counsel fully understands the requirements of a collateral challenge to a finding of jurisdiction, and how that differs from a record-based direct appeal of a finding of jurisdiction.

- a. Counsel should be familiar with the type of claims that may be raised in post-adjudication relief proceedings, and understand that most direct-appeal-like, record based claims, are not cognizable.
 - b. Counsel should understand that a “collateral” basis for post-adjudication relief, by statutory and common sense understanding, will ordinarily not be entirely established by the previously compiled record of the case, and must be supported by factual and legal grounds that arise outside the record.
 - c. Counsel should not accept appointment in a post-adjudication relief proceeding unless he or she is prepared, knowledgeable, and skilled to undertake a comprehensive extra-record investigation.
2. Juvenile post-adjudication relief is a critical chance to present new evidence that was not part of the original adjudication. Counsel representing youths in these cases should consider:
 - a. whether the youth was mentally fit during the case;
 - b. misconduct by police or prosecutors;
 - c. judicial error or misconduct;
 - d. mistaken or flawed eyewitness accounts;
 - e. false or unreliable testimony from informants;
 - f. forced or pressured confessions;
 - g. errors in forensic testing and analysis;
 - h. poor representation by the youth’s trial or appeals lawyer; and
 - i. whether an admission was made voluntarily and with full understanding.
3. Counsel’s investigation should include a thorough review of all available transcripts of the proceedings in the delinquency case. Counsel should seek to obtain, review, and transcribe any necessary portions of the proceedings that were not already transcribed.
4. Counsel should obtain and review other relevant records and documents, including the complete file of trial counsel and appellate counsel in the delinquency case, and, where appropriate, files and records of investigators and experts who worked with trial counsel, prosecutorial and police files and records, and records of the trial and appellate courts. Where appropriate, counsel should interview trial and appellate counsel. Trial and appellate counsel should cooperate with post adjudication counsel’s investigation to the extent ethically permitted.

STANDARD 10.1 – REPRESENTING YOUTH IN WAIVER PROCEEDINGS: SPECIALIZED TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

Specialized training and experience are prerequisites to providing effective assistance of counsel to youths facing waiver motions and possible adult prosecution.

Counsel must be familiar with relevant statutes and case law regarding the interplay between adult and juvenile prosecution, including waiver factors enumerated ORS 419C.349(2)(b). Counsel must be aware of the timing and process of waiver hearings and required findings for waiver of the juvenile court's jurisdiction.

Commentary:

1. Counsel should be knowledgeable and aware of the extent to which adult and juvenile facilities provide young youth's legally mandated safety protections, medical and mental health care, rehabilitative treatment, and mandatory education services to which they are entitled;
2. Counsel should be aware of timelines for youth to be committed to juvenile or adult facilities;
3. Counsel should be knowledgeable of sentencing alternatives in both adult court and for waived youth convicted in adult court;
4. Counsel should pursue specialized training, including in the areas of child and adolescent development, to ensure the requisite level of knowledge and skill to represent a youth in a transfer hearing or in adult court, and be familiar with developmental issues that may affect competence to stand trial; and
5. When the youth will be tried in adult court, counsel has the responsibility of educating the adult court stakeholders, including new defense counsel, if applicable, of the special developmental considerations of youth. Counsel must use child development research and case law supporting the lessened culpability of adolescent offenders in arguing intent, capacity, and the appropriateness of rehabilitative sentencing options.

STANDARD 10.2 – INFORMING THE YOUTH OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ADULT PROSECUTION AND THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES

Counsel must fully advise the youth of the procedures that may lead to adult prosecution and the various ways that the state could proceed.

Commentary:

1. Counsel should strive to use developmentally appropriate language when advising the youth about the youth's case;
2. Counsel must be well versed in the procedures that could lead to adult prosecution as well as the consequences of an adult prosecution;
3. Counsel must explain the consequences of prosecution in adult court, including the extent of possible sentencing decisions, as well as collateral consequences. Counsel should advise which venue would be most likely to achieve the youth's expressed interest;
4. As part of counsel's obligation to inform the youth about the Waiver proceedings, counsel should discuss with the youth, at a minimum:
 - a. Factors the court uses to determine whether to try youth as adult;
 - b. Use of physical, psychological, or other evidence considered by the court at a waiver hearing;
 - c. The disadvantages along with the advantages of proceeding in adult court;
 - d. The potential to negotiate a plea that would allow the youth to remain in juvenile court or receive a more lenient sentence in adult court; and
 - e. The potential, where it exists, of a change of counsel should the court waive juvenile jurisdiction over the case.

STANDARD 10.3 – CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION FOR YOUTHS FACING WAIVER AND POSSIBLE ADULT PROSECUTION

Counsel must conduct timely and thorough investigation of the circumstances of the allegations and the youth's background in any case where the youth is facing a waiver petition under ORS 419C.349.

Commentary:

1. Counsel must understand the factors that weigh for and against waiver to adult court and must investigate the case accordingly;
2. Counsel should compile and coordinate all evidence and information bearing on the waiver decision;
3. Counsel should retain a licensed investigator to conduct a thorough investigation into the factual circumstances of the underlying charges as well as a mitigation specialist to investigate and develop the factual record pertaining to youth's history and development;

4. Counsel should obtain records and evidence bearing on the waiver decision, which may include:
 - a. Past juvenile delinquency records;
 - b. Child welfare records;
 - c. School records;
 - d. Detention records;
 - e. Mental health and medical records;
 - f. Other relevant records related to youth's history and development, including relevant family history and circumstances; and
 - g. Interviews of people with personal knowledge of the youth.
5. Counsel should arrange for independent evaluations, including but not limited to psychological evaluations related to the specific waiver criteria and retain experts as necessary and appropriate to challenge the evidence in the state's case, educate the court regarding juvenile development and brain science, and support youth's case at a waiver hearing.
 - a. Counsel should provide defense evaluators with relevant records or materials to assist the expert's work on the case;
 - b. Counsel should advise youth on the advantages and disadvantages of discussing the underlying allegations with any defense evaluator(s), including the potential use of such statements at the waiver proceeding and any subsequent proceedings;
 - c. Counsel should advise youth on whether to invoke his or her constitutional right to remain silent during an evaluation regarding the underlying allegations and any other areas of potential juvenile or criminal liability;
 - d. If counsel and youth decide that invocation of the right to remain silent is in youth's best interest as to any topic, counsel must be present during the evaluation to invoke such rights; and
 - e. Counsel should prepare youth for his or her meeting with the evaluator.
6. If the state intends to proceed with an independent psychological evaluation of youth for the purpose of the waiver hearing, counsel must, at a minimum:
 - a. Advise the youth as to the advantages and disadvantages of participating in the evaluation, including advising youth whether to discuss the underlying allegations with the evaluator or whether to invoke youth's constitutional right to remain silent as to the charges or other potential topics carrying potential juvenile or criminal liability;
 - b. Prepare youth for the meeting with the state's evaluator;

- c. Counsel must be present in person during any evaluation or meeting between the youth and the state's evaluator, even if counsel does not intend to invoke youth's rights;
 - d. Counsel should invoke youth's constitutional right to remain silent, as appropriate, during the evaluation;
 - e. Counsel should advocate for appropriate breaks for youth, as needed, during the evaluation; and
 - f. Counsel should decide, with input from the youth, whether to provide records or mitigation materials bearing on the youth's history and development to the state's expert to aid in the evaluation.
7. Counsel should be familiar with the legal issues relating to waiver including case law and research regarding adolescent development. Counsel should develop cogent arguments that support the youth's expressed interests.
 8. Counsel must advocate for the youth's expressed interests regarding jurisdiction with prosecutors and other stakeholders in advance of a waiver proceeding.

STANDARD 10.4 – ADVOCATE AGAINST WAIVER TO ADULT COURT

Counsel must, when in the youth's expressed interests, endeavor to prevent adult prosecution of the youth.

Commentary:

At a waiver hearing, counsel should:

1. Present testimony and evidence that supports the juvenile court retaining jurisdiction over the case, including but not limited to: presentation of expert testimony, presentation of mitigation evidence, lay witness evidence or testimony, challenges to the underlying factual basis for the petition, and any other evidence that relates to the court's required findings under ORS 419C.349.
2. Counsel should file appropriate pre-hearing motions, including but not limited to, a hearing memorandum outlining the relevant legal issues and facts to be considered by the court at the hearing, motions to suppress evidence, and evidentiary or constitutional motions specific to waiver hearings.
3. Counsel must be prepared to challenge the state's evidence, including cross examination of any expert witnesses called by the state.

4. Counsel should present a cogent and well-organized closing argument to the court founded in the law and the facts of the case and zealously advocating against waiver of juvenile court's jurisdiction.

STANDARD 10.5 – OBLIGATIONS FOLLOWING A DETERMINATION TO PROSECUTE THE YOUTH IN ADULT COURT

Commentary:

1. Counsel should be aware of federal and state limitations on youth placement in adult facilities and, as appropriate and consistent with the youth's wishes, advocate for appropriate placement.
2. If the case is waived to adult court and the youth is assigned a different lawyer, counsel should work closely with the new attorney to ensure a smooth transition of the case.



Dependency Attorney Performance Standards With Commentary (DRAFT)

October 2025

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STANDARDS FOR REPRESENTATION IN JUVENILE DEPENDENCY CASES

INTRODUCTION:

Oregon Revised Statute 151.216(j) mandates that the Oregon Public Defense Commission (OPDC) “[d]evelop, adopt and oversee the implementation, enforcement and modification of policies, procedures, minimum standards, and guidelines to ensure that public defense providers are providing effective assistance of counsel consistently to all eligible persons in this state as required by statute and the Oregon and United States Constitutions. The policies, procedures, standards, and guidelines described in this paragraph apply to employees of the commission and to any person or entity that contracts with the commission to provide public defense services in this state.”

The following standards were developed by OPDC staff with input from a juvenile dependency defense provider workgroup. Per OPDC policy, these standards will be reviewed and revised one, two, and five years from adoption. OPDC welcomes ongoing provider input regarding the content and efficacy of these standards.

This iteration of the Standards was drawn heavily from the existing Oregon State Bar Specific Standards for Representation in Juvenile Dependency Cases from June of 2017. Each standard sets a baseline for practice of appointed defense work and is followed by commentary that supplements the baseline standards. OPDC recognizes that in any given case, some standards and commentary might be inapplicable or even mutually exclusive.

Commentary is particularly challenging as there are many times when the commentary is impractical or even against a client’s best interest or desire. OPDC acknowledges that to practice law, exceptions to these baseline rules and their commentary must apply. The commentary provides additional considerations for counsel performing public defense. There are times when items listed in the commentary may be useful or helpful during representation. They are not meant to establish baseline minimum performance standards.

Juvenile Dependency practice standards depend on the role of the client. These standards address representation of children and representation of a parent or guardian.

OPDC is grateful to the prior work of the Oregon State Bar and the Oregon Public Defense Commission Dependency Standards Workgroup for the extensive work OPDC drew upon in the development process

STANDARDS FOR REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN

STANDARD 1.1 – ROLE OF THE CHILD’S LAWYER

- A. The lawyer for child in a dependency case should provide quality and zealous representation at all stages of the case. The child-client’s lawyer must determine whether the child-client has sufficient capacity to understand and form a lawyer-client relationship and whether the child-client is capable of making reasoned judgments and engaging in meaningful communication.**
- B. The child-client’s lawyer must advocate for the child’s expressed interests when the child has decision-making capacity, ensure that the child-client is afforded due process and other rights, and protect the child-client’s other interests.**
- C. For a child-client with full decision-making capacity, the child-client’s lawyer must maintain a normal lawyer-client relationship with the child-client, including taking direction from the child-client on matters normally within the child-client’s control.**
- D. For a child-client with diminished capacity, the child-client’s lawyer must maintain a normal lawyer-client relationship with the child as far as reasonably possible and take direction from the child-client as the child develops capacity. A child-client may have the capacity to make some decisions but not others.**
- E. When it is not reasonably possible to maintain a normal lawyer-client relationship generally or with regard to a particular issue, the child-client’s lawyer must conduct a thorough investigation and then determine what course of action is most consistent with what the child-client’s interests would be and act in accordance with that determination.**

Commentary

1. The child-client’s lawyer should not confuse inability to express a preference with unwillingness to express a preference. If an otherwise competent child-client chooses not to express a preference on a particular matter, the lawyer should determine if the child-client wishes the lawyer to take no position in the proceeding or if the child-client wishes the lawyer or someone else to make the decision. In either case, the lawyer is bound to follow the child-client’s direction.
2. The assessment of a child’s capacity must be based upon objective criteria, not the personal philosophy or opinion of the child-client’s lawyer. The assessment should be grounded in insights from child development science and should focus on the child-client’s decision-making process rather than the child-client’s choices. Lawyers should be careful not to conclude that a child-client suffers diminished capacity from a child-

client's insistence upon a course of action that the child-client's lawyer considers unwise or at variance with their views.

3. In determining whether a child-client has diminished capacity, the Report of the Working Group on Determining the Child's Capacity to Make Decisions, 64 Fordham L Rev 1339 (1996), suggests that a child-client's lawyer may consider the following factors:
 - a. A child-client's ability to communicate a preference;
 - b. Whether a child-client can articulate reasons for the preference;
 - c. The decision-making process used by a child-client to arrive at the decision (e.g., is it logical, is it consistent with previous positions taken by the child-client, does the child-client appear to be influenced by others, etc.); and
 - d. Whether a child-client appears to understand the consequences of the decision.

STANDARD 1.2 – ADVOCATING FOR A CHILD'S EXPRESSED INTERESTS

A. The child-client's lawyer must explain the nature of all legal and administrative proceedings to the extent possible given the child-client's age and ability and determine the child-client's position and goals. The child's lawyer also acts as a counselor and advisor. This involves explaining the likelihood of achieving the child-client's goals and, when appropriate, identifying alternatives for the child-client's consideration. In addition, the lawyer should explain the risks, if any, inherent in the child-client's position. Once the child-client has settled on positions and goals, the lawyer must vigorously advocate for the child-client.

Commentary:

When a child-client is capable of instructing the lawyer, decisions that are ultimately the child-client's to make include whether to:

1. Contest, waive trial on petition, negotiate changes in or testify about the allegations in the petition;
2. Stipulate to evidence that is sufficient to form a basis for jurisdiction and commitment to the custody of the Department of Human Services (hereinafter "agency");
3. Accept a conditional postponement or dismissal; or
4. Agree to specific services or placements.

The lawyer should recognize that the child-client may be more susceptible to intimidation and manipulation than some adult clients. Therefore, the lawyer should ensure that the decision the child-client ultimately makes reflects the child-client's actual position.

STANDARD 1.3 – INVESTIGATING AND PROTECTING A CHILD’S UNEXPRESSED INTERESTS

- A. When the child-client is incapable of directing the lawyer, the child-client’s lawyer must thoroughly investigate the child-client’s circumstances, including important family relationships, the child-client’s strengths and needs, and other relevant information, and then determine what actions will protect the child-client’s interests in safety and permanency.**
- B. If the child-client is able to verbalize a preference but is not capable of making an adequately considered decision, the child-client’s verbal expressions are an important factor to consider in determining what course of action to take. The child-client’s lawyer may wish to seek guidance from appropriate professionals and others with knowledge of the child, including the advice of an expert.**
- C. When the child-client’s lawyer reasonably believes the child-client has diminished capacity, is at risk of physical, sexual, psychological, or financial harm, and cannot adequately act in their own interest, the child-client’s lawyer may take reasonably necessary protective action, including consulting with individuals or entities that have the ability to take action to protect the child-client.**

Commentary:

1. In determining what course of action to take when the child-client cannot provide direction, the child-client’s lawyer must take into consideration the child-client’s legal interests based on objective criteria as set forth in the laws applicable to the proceeding, the goal of expeditious resolution of the case, and the use of the least restrictive or detrimental alternatives available.
2. The child-client’s needs and interests, not the adult’s or professional’s interests, must be the center of all advocacy. The child-client’s lawyer should seek out opportunities to observe and interact with the very young child-client. It is also essential that lawyers for very young children have a firm working knowledge of child development and special entitlements for children under age five.
3. When a child with diminished capacity is unable to protect themselves from substantial harm, Oregon RPC 1.14 allows the child-client’s lawyer to take action to protect the child-client. Oregon RPC 1.6 and Oregon RPC 1.14(c) implicitly authorize the child-client’s lawyer to reveal information about the child-client, but only to the extent reasonably necessary to protect the child-client’s interests. If any disclosure by the lawyer will have a negative impact on the child-client’s case or the lawyer-client relationship, the lawyer must consider whether representation can continue and whether the lawyer-client relationship can be re-established. The child-client’s lawyer should choose the protective action that intrudes the least on the lawyer-client

relationship and is as consistent as possible with the wishes and values of the child-client.

STANDARD 1.4 – RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHILD-CLIENT

- A. It is important that the child-client’s lawyer, from the beginning of the case, is clear with the child-client that the child-client’s lawyer works for the child-client, is available for consultation, and wants to communicate regularly.**
- B. The child-client’s lawyer should not advise the court of the lawyer determination of the child-client’s capacity and, if asked, should reply that the relationship between the child-client and the lawyer is privileged.**
- C. The child-client’s lawyer may not request the appointment of a court-appointed special advocate (CASA) or other advocate for the child’s best interests when the child-client is competent to make decisions.**

Commentary:

1. The child-client’s lawyer should explain to the child-client the benefits of bringing issues to the lawyer’s attention rather than letting problems persist. The child-client’s lawyer should support the client and be sensitive to the child-client’s individual needs. The child-client’s lawyer may be the child-client’s only advocate in the system and should act accordingly.
2. The child-client’s lawyer should not give the impression to the child-client that relationships with other lawyers are more important than the representation the child-client’s lawyer is providing the child-client. The child-client must feel that the child-client’s lawyer believes in, and is actively advocating on, the child’s behalf.
3. Requesting the judge to appoint a court-appointed special advocate (CASA) or other best-interest advocate may undermine the relationship the child-client’s lawyer has established with the child-client. It also potentially compromises confidential information the child-client may have revealed to the lawyer. The lawyer cannot ever become the best-interest advocate, in part due to confidential information that the lawyer receives in the course of representation.

STANDARD 1.5 – COLLATERAL REPRESENTATION

- A. The child-client’s lawyer should advocate for actions necessary to meet the child-client’s educational, health, cultural, and mental health needs.**
- B. The child-client’s lawyer should take appropriate actions on delinquency, immigration, and collateral issues.**

Commentary:

Consistent with the child-client's wishes, the child-client's lawyer should identify the child-client's needs and seek appropriate services (by court order if necessary) to access entitlements, to protect the child-client's interests, and to implement an individualized service plan. These services should be culturally competent, community-based whenever possible, and provided in the least restrictive setting appropriate to the child-client's needs. These services may include, but are not limited to:

1. Family preservation-related prevention or reunification services;
2. Sibling and family visitation;
3. Domestic violence services, including treatment;
4. Medical and mental health care;
5. Drug and alcohol treatment;
6. Educational services;
7. Recreational or social services;
8. Housing;
9. Semi-independent and independent living services for youth who are transitioning out of care and services to help them identify and link with permanent family connections; and
10. Adoption services.

Consistent with the child-client's wishes, the child-client's lawyer should ensure that a child-client receives the most appropriate and least restrictive services to address any physical, mental, or developmental disabilities. These services may include, but should not be limited to:

1. Special education and related services;
2. Supplemental security income (SSI) to help support needed services;
3. In-home, community-based behavioral health treatment or out-patient psychiatric treatment;
4. Therapeutic foster or group home care; and
5. Residential/in-patient behavioral health treatment.

The child-client's lawyer should inquire regarding prior delinquency, status offense, or criminal history. The child-client's lawyer should advise the child-client to contact the lawyer immediately if the child-client is contacted by law enforcement, school authorities, or is otherwise under investigation.

The child-client's lawyer should identify and preserve relevant evidence related to mental health, cognitive functioning, disability, medical treatment, family history, and other mitigating factors.

Whenever possible, the child-client's lawyer in the dependency case should also represent the child-client in the delinquency case. If the child-client has two individual lawyers, they should collaborate regarding case strategy.

If a child-client's lawyer, in the course of representing a child-client under the age of 18, becomes aware that the child-client has a possible claim for damages that the child-client cannot pursue because of the child's age or disability, the child-client's lawyer should consider asking the court that has jurisdiction over the child-client to either appoint a guardian ad litem (GAL) for the child-client to investigate and take action on the possible claim or issue an order permitting access to juvenile court records by a practitioner who can advise the court whether to seek appointment of a GAL to pursue a possible claim.

The child-client's lawyer may pursue, personally or through a referral to an appropriate specialist, issues on behalf of the child-client, administratively or judicially, even if those issues do not specifically arise from the court appointment. Examples include:

1. Delinquency or status offender matters;
2. SSI and other public benefits;
3. Custody;
4. Paternity;
5. School and education issues;
6. Immigration issues;
7. Proceedings related to the securing of needed health and mental health services; and
8. Child support.

If the child-client might be eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, the child-client's lawyer should consider consulting with a dependency lawyer experienced in these cases and, if appropriate, consulting with an immigration lawyer. If the child-client appears eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, the child's trial lawyer should advocate for immigration representation by the agency, if relevant. If the child-client does not qualify for representation by the agency in the immigration matter, the child-client's lawyer should consider attempting to locate an immigration lawyer to represent the child-client.

STANDARD 2.1 – COMMUNICATION

- A. The child-client's lawyer must make reasonable efforts to make contact in writing, electronically, or in person within 3 business days. That contact should take into consideration the age and preferred method of contact for the child.**
- B. During the first meeting with the child-client, the child-client's lawyer must explain the lawyer's role, provide the child-client with contact information in writing, and establish an effective system for the child-client to communicate with the lawyer.**

- C. The child-client's lawyer must meet with the child-client regularly - and at least quarterly - throughout the case. The child-client's lawyer should ask the child-client questions to obtain information to prepare the case and strive to create a comfortable environment so the child-client can ask the lawyer questions. The child-client's lawyer should use these meetings to prepare for court as well as to counsel the child-client concerning issues that arise during the course of the case. Information obtained from the child-client should be used to propel the investigation.**
- D. The child-client's lawyer must ensure a qualified interpreter is involved when the child-client's lawyer and child-client are not fluent in the same language and are engaged in substantive legal discussions.**

Commentary:

When feasible, the child-client's lawyer should conduct an initial interview within three business days of appointment. At that meeting, the lawyer should provide the child-client with contact information in writing and explain that even when the lawyer is unavailable, the child-client should leave a message. The child-client's lawyer should respond to the child-client's messages within a reasonable time.

The child-client's lawyer should be available for in-person meetings or telephone calls to answer the child-client's questions and address the child-client's concerns. The child-client's lawyer and child-client should work together to identify and review short- and long-term goals, particularly as circumstances change during the case.

Meetings with the child-client should occur well before any hearings, not at the courthouse just minutes before the case is called before the judge. After the first meeting, the child-client's lawyer should have contact with the child-client:

1. Before court hearings, case status and pretrial conferences, mediations, and Citizen Review Board (CRB) reviews;
2. Before any important decision affecting the child-client's life;
3. In response to contact by the child-client;
4. Following (and, when possible, before) significant transitions, including but not limited to, initial removal and changes in placement; and
5. When a significant change of circumstances must be discussed with the child-client or when a child-client's lawyer learns of emergencies or significant events affecting the child-client;

In rare circumstances, a child-client's lawyer may have less-frequent than quarterly contact with their client, such as when their child-client's whereabouts are unknown, when there is strong evidence that the child-client will be adversely affected by communicating with the child-client's lawyer, or when the child-client refuses to communicate with their lawyer.

The child-client's position, interests, needs, and wishes change over time. The child-client's lawyer cannot be fully informed of such changes without developing a relationship through frequent contacts.

In order to provide competent representation, the child-client's lawyer should initially meet with the child-client in the child's environment to understand the child-client's personal context, unless the child-client indicates that he or she does not want this. The child-client's lawyer should determine whether developing and maintaining a lawyer-client relationship requires that the meetings occur in person in the child-client's environment or whether other forms of communication, such as a telephonic or electronic communication, are sufficient.

The child-client's lawyer should explain to the child-client in a developmentally appropriate way all information and ascertain the child-client's position on the information. This includes the result of all court hearings and administrative proceedings, which will assist the child-client in having maximum input in determining the client's position.

The child-client's lawyer should be aware of the child-client's cultural background and how that background affects effective communication with the child-client.

STANDARD 2.2 - CONFIDENTIALITY

- A. The child-client's lawyer must abide by confidentiality laws, as well as ethical obligations, and adhere to both with respect to information obtained from or about the child-client.**
- B. The child-client's lawyer must fully explain to the child-client the advantages and disadvantages of choosing to exercise, partially waive, or waive a privilege or right to confidentiality. If the child-client's lawyer determines that the child-client is unable to make an adequately considered decision with respect to waiver, the lawyer must act with respect to waiver in a manner consistent with, and in furtherance of, the child-client's position in the overall litigation.**
- C. Consistent with the child-client's interests and goals, the child-client's lawyer must seek to protect from disclosure confidential information concerning the child-client.**
- D. The child-client's lawyer may only report abuse or neglect discovered through lawyer-client communication if the child-client consents to the disclosure.**

Commentary:

The child-client's lawyer should try to avoid publicity connected with the case that is adverse to the child-client's interests. The child-client's lawyer should protect the child-client's privacy interests, including asking for closed proceedings when appropriate. The child-client's lawyer must be aware that Article I, Section 10 of the Oregon constitution limits the ability for closed proceedings.

The child-client's lawyer should discuss with the child-client the potential consequences of communicating via electronic communication or broadcasting over social media. While social media may be a convenient way to locate and communicate with the child-client, the child-client's lawyer and child-client should be aware that communications may not be confidential or protected by lawyer-client privilege.

STANDARD 2.3 – CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- A. A child-client's lawyer, or a lawyer associated in practice, must not represent two or more clients who are parties to the same or consolidated juvenile dependency cases or closely related matters unless it is clear there is no conflict of interest between the parties as defined by the Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct. The child-client's lawyer should follow Oregon RPC 1.7 to 1.13 relating to conflicts of interest and duties to former clients.**
- B. In analyzing whether a conflict of interest exists, the child-client's lawyer must consider whether pursuing one client's objectives will prevent the lawyer from pursuing another client's objectives, and whether confidentiality may be compromised.**

Commentary:

The child-client's lawyer should be especially cautious when accepting representation of more than one child. The child-client's lawyer should avoid representing multiple siblings when their interests may be adverse and should never represent siblings when it is alleged that one sibling has physically or sexually abused another sibling.

The child-client may not be capable of consenting to multiple representations even after full disclosure. For the child-client incapable of considered judgment or unable to execute any written consent to continued representation in a case of waivable conflict of interest, the child-client's lawyer should not represent multiple parties.

STANDARD 3.1 – EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE OF CHILD-CLIENT'S LAWYER

- A. The child-client's lawyer must provide competent representation to a child-client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, training, experience, thoroughness, and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation. The lawyer must not accept an appointment unless the lawyer is able to provide quality representation and diligent advocacy for the child-client.**
- B. The child-client's lawyer must be sufficiently familiar with applicable state and federal law affecting dependency proceedings so as to be able to recognize when they are relevant to a case, and they should be prepared to research these and other applicable issues.**

- C. The child-client's lawyer must know how to offer documents, photos, physical objects, electronic records, etc. into evidence.**
- D. Prior to being accepting appointment in a dependency, termination of parental rights, or permanent guardianship case, a lawyer must be certified for that case type by OPDC, either independently or under supervision.**

Commentary:

The child-client's lawyer must read and understand all state laws, policies, and procedures regarding child abuse, neglect, and other related matters, including but not limited to the following:

1. Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) chapters 419A, 419B, and 419C, Oregon Juvenile Code;
2. ORS chapter 418, Child Welfare Services;
3. ORS 418.925–418.945, Refugee Child Act;
4. Oregon Revised Statutes concerning paternity, guardianships, and adoption;
5. ORS 417.200–417.260, Interstate Compact on Placement of Children, and Oregon Administrative Rules;
6. ORS 109.701–109.990, Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, and Oregon Administrative Rules;
7. The basic structure and functioning of the Department of Human Services and the juvenile court, including court procedures, the functioning of the CRB and CASA programs; and
8. Indian Child Welfare Act 25 USC §§ 1901 -1963; Bureau of Indian Affairs Guidelines; and Oregon Administrative Rules.

Newer lawyers are encouraged to work with mentors for the first three months and, at a minimum, should observe or co-counsel each type of dependency hearing from shelter care through review of permanent plan before accepting appointments.

The child-client's lawyer should have a working knowledge of child development, family dynamics, placement alternatives case and permanency planning, and services for children and families in dependency cases.

The child-client's lawyer should become familiar with normal growth and development in children and adolescents as well as common types of condition and impairments.

The child-client's lawyer should be familiar with the range of placement options in dependency cases and should visit at least two of the following:

1. A shelter home or facility;
2. A foster home;
3. A group home;
4. A residential treatment facility; or
5. A state child or adolescent psychiatric ward.

The child-client's lawyer must be familiar with case-planning and permanency-planning principles, and with child welfare and family preservation services available through the agency and available in the community and the problems they are designed to address.

STANDARD 3.2 – OBLIGATIONS OF CHILD-CLIENT COUNSEL REGARDING WORKLOAD

- A. Before accepting appointment as counsel, the child-client's lawyer has an obligation to ensure that they have sufficient time, resources, knowledge, and experience to offer quality representation to a child-client in a dependency matter without hampering their representation of existing clients. If it later appears that the lawyer is unable to offer quality representation in the case, the lawyer must move to withdraw.**

Commentary:

A lawyer should have access to sufficient support services and resources to allow for quality representation, including investigation.

A lawyer should evaluate their ability to appear in court with clients when deciding whether to accept an appointment in a case. Lawyers should not overly rely on other lawyers to cover their appearances.

When possible, lawyers should appear in person or in the same manner as their clients.

STANDARD 4.1 – THEORY OF THE CASE

- A. The child-client's lawyer must actively represent the child-client in the preparation of a case as well as at hearings.**
- B. The child-client's lawyer must develop a theory and strategy of the case to implement at hearings, including the development of factual and legal issues.**

Commentary:

Regardless of any alignment of position among the child-client and other parties, the child-client's lawyer should develop the lawyer's own theory and strategy of the case and ensure that the child-client has an independent voice in the proceeding.

The child-client's lawyer should not be merely a fact finder, but rather should zealously advocate a position on behalf of the child-client. Although the child-client's position may overlap with the position of one or both parents, third-party caretakers, or the agency, the child-client's lawyer should be prepared to present the child-client's position independently and to participate fully in any proceedings.

When consistent with the child-client's interest, the child-client's lawyer should take every appropriate step to expedite the proceedings.

The child-client's lawyer should communicate with lawyers for the other parties, CASA, the caseworker, foster parents, and service providers to learn about the child-client's progress and the child's views of the case, as appropriate.

STANDARD 4.2 – OUT OF COURT ADVOCACY

- A. The child-client's lawyer must advocate for the child-client both in and out of court.**
- B. The child-client's lawyer must engage in case planning and advocate for a case plan and social services that will help achieve the child-client's goals in the case.**
- C. If the child-client's goals include a continued relationship with the parent, the child-client's lawyer should advocate strongly for frequent visitation in a family-friendly setting.**

Commentary:

The child-client's lawyer should advocate for an effective visiting plan consistent with the child-client's wishes. Courts and the agency may need to be encouraged to develop visitation plans that best fit the needs of the individual family.

When the child-client desires visits and when necessary, the child-client's lawyer should seek court orders to compel the child welfare agency to provide appropriate visitation for the child-client, consistent with the child-client's wishes. The child-client's lawyer may also need to take action to enforce previously entered orders.

A child-client's lawyer who plans to attend meetings about the case should be aware that other represented parties may be present without their lawyers and should take necessary steps to comply with the Rules of Professional Conduct. A child-client's lawyer who does not plan to attend meetings about the case should be aware that other represented parties will attend with their lawyers at the meeting and thus should take steps to protect the client's interests.

A child-client's lawyer must be mindful that meeting with their child-client may involve interacting with a represented party, usually a parent. When the child-client is younger, it would be almost impossible not to discuss the subject of the representation with the parent, as the subject matter is the child-client. The child-client's lawyer must have permission if this is the case.

If visiting an older child-client for whom it is possible to limit conversation with the represented party to pleasantries and a request to speak privately with the child-client, the child-client's lawyer should, as a professional courtesy, notify the parent's lawyer that they will be making a

visit to the child-client and will speak to the parent only to schedule and facilitate a private conversation with the child-client.

Of course, even in the case of an older child, the child-client's lawyer could seek consent to have additional conversation with the represented party. The child-client's lawyer should be careful not to disclose confidential information or to elicit any information from the parent on the subject of the representation unless consent has been given.

STANDARD 5 – PRE-PETITION

- A. The child-client's lawyer must counsel the child-client about his or her rights in the investigation stage as well as the realistic possibility of achieving the child-client's goals.**
- B. The child-client's lawyer should discuss available services and help the child-client gain access to those in which they wish to participate.**

Commentary:

If a child-client would likely be eligible for appointed counsel at state expense if the subject of a juvenile court dependency petition and prepetition representation is necessary to preserve and protect the rights of the child-client, the child-client's lawyer may seek approval from the Oregon Public Defense Commission (OPDC) for funding to commence representation prior to court appointment. Contact OPDC for more information.

If the child-client's lawyer agrees to represent the child-client, the goal of representation should depend on the child-client's wishes when the child-client is capable of instructing the lawyer or expressing a preference. Sometimes this may mean avoiding having a petition filed, while other times it may mean filing a petition.

STANDARD 6 – INVESTIGATION

- A. The child-client's lawyer must conduct a thorough, continuing, and independent review and investigation of the case, including obtaining information, research, and discovery to prepare the case for trial and hearings.**
- B. The child-client's lawyer should not rely solely on the disclosure information provided by the agency caseworker, the state, or other parties as the investigation of the facts and circumstances underlying the case.**
- C. The child-client's lawyer must review the case record of the child-client and the supplemental confidential file, and the case record of the child-client's siblings when permitted by the juvenile code, Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct, and other confidentiality statutes.**

- D. The child-client's lawyer must review relevant photographs, video or audio tapes, and other evidence. When necessary, the child-client's lawyer should obtain protective orders to keep information confidential once obtained.**
- E. If the child-client is not a U.S. citizen and does not have Lawful Permanent Resident status, the child-client's lawyer must determine or seek an opinion from a lawyer qualified to make a determination if the child-client likely qualifies for Special Immigrant Juvenile status.**
- F. The child-client's lawyer must research and review relevant statutes and case law to identify defenses and legal arguments to support the child-client's case.**
- G. The child-client's lawyer should obtain all necessary documents, including copies of all pleadings and relevant notices filed by other parties, and respond to requests for documents from other parties.**
- H. The child-client's lawyer should have potential witnesses, including adverse witnesses, interviewed by an investigator or other appropriately trained person.**

Commentary:

The child-client's lawyer should research and review relevant statutes and case law to identify defenses and legal arguments to support the child-client's case.

The child-client's lawyer should contact and meet with the parents, legal guardians, or caretakers of the child with permission of their lawyer(s).

The child-client's lawyer should obtain necessary releases of information in order to thoroughly investigate the case.

The child-client's lawyer should interview individuals involved with the child-client and the parent.

The child-client's lawyer should determine whether obtaining independent evaluations or assessments of the child-client is needed for the investigation of the case.

The child-client's lawyer should attend treatment, placement, and administrative hearings involving the child-client and parent as needed.

The child-client's lawyer should work with a team that includes investigators and social workers to prepare the child-client's case. If necessary, the child-client's lawyer should petition the OPDC for funds.

The child-client's lawyer should ask for and review the agency case file as early during the course of representation as possible and at regular intervals throughout the case. After

reviewing the agency file, the child-client's lawyer should determine if any records or case notes of any social worker or supervisor have not been placed in the file and move to obtain those records as well either through informal or formal discovery.

When appropriate, the child-client's lawyer, or another trained and qualified person, should observe visitations between the parent and the child-client.

It is a good practice to have interviews conducted by an investigator employed by the child-client's lawyer. However, if the child-client's lawyer conducts the interview, a third person such as a member of the child-client's lawyer's office should be present so that the third person can be used at trial to impeach the witness.

STANDARD 7 – COURT PREPARATION

- A. The child-client's lawyer must develop a case theory and strategy to follow at hearings and negotiations. Once the child-client's lawyer has completed the initial investigation and discovery, including interviews with the child-client, the child-client's lawyer should develop a strategy for representation.**
- B. The child-client's lawyer should timely file all pleadings, motions, objections, and briefs, and research applicable legal issues and advance legal arguments when appropriate.**
- C. The child-client's lawyer must file answers and responses, motions, objections, and discovery requests and responsive pleadings or memoranda that are appropriate for the case. The pleadings and memoranda must be thorough, accurate, and timely. The pleadings must be served on all lawyers or unrepresented parties.**
- D. The child-client's lawyer must explain to the child-client, in a developmentally appropriate manner, what is expected to happen before, during, and after each hearing and facilitate the child-client's attendance at hearings when doing so is consistent with the child client's goals. When the child-client wishes to attend the proceedings, the child-client's lawyer must request that the agency, as the child's legal custodian, transport the child-client to the hearing.**
- E. The child-client's lawyer must identify, locate, and prepare witnesses, including expert witnesses, consistent with the case theory and strategy for representation.**
- F. In consultation with the child-client, the child-client's lawyer should determine whether to call the child-client to testify. When the child-client will offer testimony or will be called by another party, the child-client's lawyer should prepare the child-client to testify and seek to minimize any harm that testifying might cause to the child-client.**

Commentary:

When a case presents a complicated or new legal issue, the child-client's lawyer should conduct the appropriate research before appearing in court and should consider preparing a memorandum of law to present to the court. The child-client's lawyer should be prepared to distinguish case law that appears unfavorable and to preserve challenges to unfavorable law if the argument is unlikely to prevail at trial level.

The child-client's lawyer should promote and participate in settlement negotiations and mediation to resolve the case quickly.

The child-client's lawyer should not assume that other parties will call any potential witnesses, even if named in that party's witness list. The child-client's lawyer should, when possible, contact potential witnesses to determine if their testimony will be helpful to the child-client's theory of the case and independently secure the attendance of such witnesses at relevant hearings. The child-client's lawyer should set aside time to prepare such witnesses in advance of hearings.

The child-client's lawyer should decide whether to call the child-client as a witness, although the child-client's lawyer is bound by the wishes of a child-client capable of considered judgment. If the child-client does not wish to testify or would be harmed by being forced to testify, the child-client's lawyer should seek a stipulation of the parties not to call the child-client as a witness or file a motion pursuant to ORS 419B.310 to take the testimony of the child-client outside the presence of the parent(s) and other parties.

STANDARD 8 – HEARINGS

- A. The child-client's lawyer must prepare for and participate in all hearings and other court appearances. That participation must include:**
1. preparing the child-client to testify if called;
 2. preparing to call witnesses and offer exhibits to advance the child-client's position;
 3. making motions and evidentiary objections consistent with child-client's objectives and trial strategy; and
 4. making closing arguments that advocate for findings of fact, conclusions of law, and orders that are consistent with the child-client's objectives.
- A. The child-client's lawyer must be prepared to state the child-client's position at each hearing.**
- B. The child-client's lawyer must be able to effectively present witnesses to advance the child-client's position. Witnesses must be prepared in advance and the child-client's lawyer should know what evidence will be presented through the witnesses. The child-client's lawyer must also be skilled at cross-examining opposing parties' witnesses.**

- C. The child-client's lawyer should be strategic in determining when to request and when to make an opening statement.**
- D. If the court proceeds in the absence of the child-client's lawyer, the lawyer must consider filing a motion to set aside.**

Commentary:

The child-client's lawyer should seek out training in trial skills and watch other lawyers to learn from them. Presenting and cross-examining witnesses are skills with which the child-client's lawyer must be comfortable. In particular, examining or cross-examining a child requires unique skills.

STANDARD 9 – POST HEARINGS

- A. The child-client's lawyer should take reasonable steps to ensure the child-client and all other parties comply with court orders and should continuously assess whether the case needs to be brought back to court.**
- B. If the child-client is unhappy with an order or judgment, the child-client's lawyer should counsel the child-client about any options to appeal, or, when the order was entered by a referee, request a rehearing pursuant to ORS 419A.150, but should explain that the order is in effect unless a stay or other relief is secured.**
- C. If an appeal is consistent with the child-client's objectives, the child-client's lawyer must timely facilitate the appointment of an appellate lawyer for the child-client.**

Commentary:

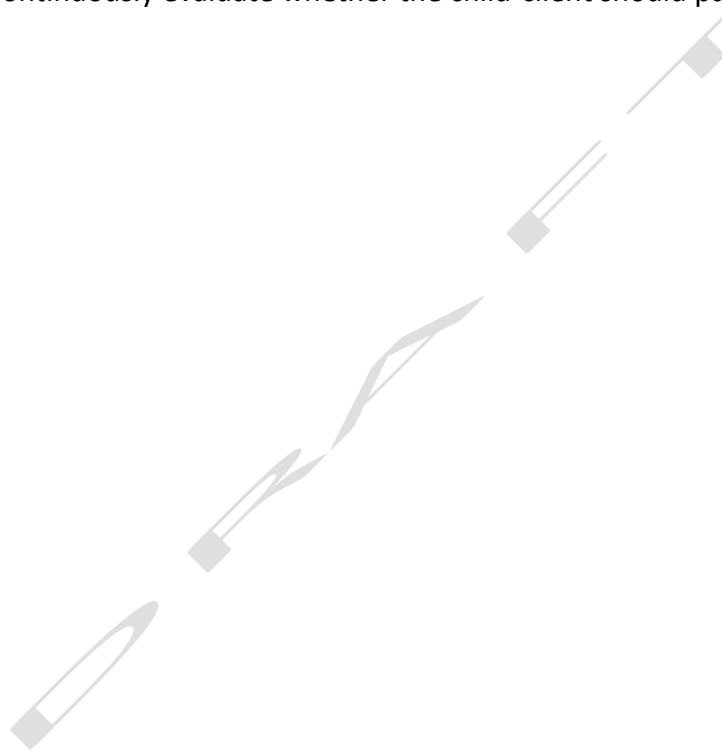
At the conclusion of the hearing, the child-client's lawyer should request and obtain a copy of the written order or judgment to ensure it reflects the court's verbal order. If the order or judgment is incorrect, that is, it does not reflect the court's verbal rulings, the child-client's trial lawyer should take whatever steps are necessary to correct it to the extent that the corrections are beneficial to the child-client.

Once the order or judgment is final, the child-client's lawyer should provide the child-client with a copy of the order or judgment, if age appropriate, and should review the order or judgment with the child-client to ensure the child-client understands it and the obligations of all of the parties under the order or judgment.

If an order or judgment adversely affects the child-client, the child-client's lawyer should advise the client of the remedies, which include moving to modify or set aside the order or judgment.

The child's court-appointed lawyer should work with the appellate lawyer and identify for the appellate lawyer: the parties to the case (for example whether there are any interveners), appropriate issues for appeal, and promptly respond to all requests for additional information or documents necessary for the appellate lawyer to prosecute the appeal. The lawyer should promptly comply with the court's order to return exhibits necessary for appeal.

The child-client's lawyer should monitor the progress of an appeal taken by another party to the juvenile case and continuously evaluate whether the child-client should participate in the appeal.



STANDARDS FOR REPRESENTATION OF PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Lawyers in Dependency matters may be called on to represent different types of parties who have taken a parental role over a child who is the subject of the petition. Generally, those persons fall into two categories: Parents (persons whose rights to a child are rooted in parentage) and Guardians (persons whose rights to a child are granted by a guardianship order). For the purposes of these standards, Indian Custodians under ORS 419B.603(6) and putative fathers who are named in a petition are considered Parents.

Standards 1.1 and 1.2 are split between Parents and Guardians. In all other standards, when the standard refers to a parent, it also refers to a guardian.

STANDARD 1.1A – ROLE OF THE PARENT LAWYER

- A. The parent-client’s lawyer must maintain a normal lawyer-client relationship with the parent client, including advocating for the parent client’s goals and empowering the parent client to direct the representation and make informed decisions.**
- B. The parent-client’s lawyer must be aware of the parent client’s mental health status and be prepared to assess whether the parent client can assist with the case.**
- C. When it is not reasonably possible to maintain a normal lawyer-client relationship generally or with regard to a particular issue, the parent-client’s lawyer must conduct a thorough investigation and then determine what course of action is most consistent with protecting the parent client’s interests in the particular situation and represent the parent client in accordance with that determination.**
- D. If the court has appointed a Guardian Ad Litem over a parent client due to the parent client’s lack of competence, the parent-client’s lawyer is required to follow directions provided by the guardian ad litem but must continually assess whether the parent client’s competence has changed. If appropriate, the parent-client’s lawyer must request removal of the guardian ad litem.**

Commentary:

The parent-client’s lawyer should explain that the lawyer’s job is to represent the parent client’s interests and regularly inquire as to the parent client’s goals, including ultimate case goals and interim goals. The lawyer should explain all legal aspects of the case including the advantages and disadvantages of different options. At the same time, the lawyer should be careful not to usurp the parent client’s authority to decide the case goals.

When representing a parent client with diminished capacity because of age, mental impairment, or for some other reason, the parent-client's lawyer should, as far as reasonably possible, maintain a normal lawyer-client relationship with the parent client. A parent client may have the capacity to make some decisions but not others.

When it is not reasonably possible to maintain a normal lawyer-client relationship, the determination of what course of action to take should be based on objective facts and information and not the lawyer's personal philosophy or opinion.

STANDARD 1.1B – ROLE OF THE LAWYER FOR GUARDIANS

- A. The guardian-client's lawyer must maintain a normal lawyer-client relationship with the guardian client, including advocating for the guardian client's goals and empowering the guardian client to direct the representation and make informed decisions.**
- B. The guardian-client's lawyer must be aware of the guardian client's mental health status and be prepared to assess whether the guardian client can assist with the case.**
- C. When it is not reasonably possible to maintain a normal lawyer-client relationship generally or with regard to a particular issue, the guardian-client's lawyer must conduct a thorough investigation and then determine what course of action is most consistent with protecting the guardian client's interests in the particular situation and represent the guardian client in accordance with that determination.**

Commentary:

The guardian-client's lawyer should explain that the lawyer's job is to represent the guardian client's interests and regularly inquire as to the guardian client's goals, including ultimate case goals and interim goals. The lawyer should explain all legal aspects of the case including the advantages and disadvantages of different options. At the same time, the lawyer should be careful not to usurp the guardian client's authority to decide the case goals.

When representing a guardian client with diminished capacity because of age, mental impairment, or for some other reason, the guardian-client's lawyer should, as far as reasonably possible, maintain a normal lawyer-client relationship with the guardian client. A guardian client may have the capacity to make some decisions but not others.

When it is not reasonably possible to maintain a normal lawyer-client relationship, the determination of what course of action to take should be based on objective facts and information and not the lawyer's personal philosophy or opinion.

STANDARD 1.2A – RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PARENT-CLIENT

- A. The parent-client’s lawyer must clearly explain the allegations made against the parent client; what is likely to happen before, during, and after trial and each hearing; and ascertain the parent client’s position on the allegations.**
- B. The parent-client’s lawyer must explain what steps the parent client can take to increase the likelihood of achieving the objectives of the representation.**
- C. The parent-client’s lawyer must advise the parent client of the parent’s rights, the lawyer’s role and responsibilities, the role of each participant in the system, and alternatives and options available to the parent client.**
- D. The parent-client’s lawyer must advise the parent client of the relevant state and federal statutory timelines and help the parent client develop a system to remember important projected deadlines and important dates.**
- E. The parent-client’s lawyer must take diligent steps to locate and communicate with a missing parent client and decide representation strategies based on that communication.**
- F. The parent-client’s lawyer must inform the parent client that if the parent client fails to appear for any hearing on a petition to establish jurisdiction or terminate parental rights to which the parent client has been summoned or ordered to appear, the court has no discretion to allow the lawyer to appear on the merits of the case on the parent client’s behalf and that the court may allow the other parties to proceed in the parent client’s absence.**
- G. The parent-client’s lawyer must show respect and act professionally with the parent client.**

Commentary:

The parent-client’s lawyer should provide or ensure that the parent client is provided with copies of all petitions, court orders, service plans, and other relevant case documents, including reports regarding the child except when expressly prohibited by law, rule, or court order. The lawyer has an ethical obligation to share all information in the file with a client. A lawyer must consider this ethical obligation in determining how to share information with a client.

If the parent client has difficulty reading, the parent-client’s lawyer should read the documents to the parent client. In all cases, the lawyer should be available to discuss and explain the documents to the parent client.

The parent-client’s lawyer and the parent client should identify barriers to the parent client engaging in services such as employment, transportation, financial issues, inability to read, and

language differences. The lawyer should work with the parent client, caseworker, and service provider to remove those barriers and advocate with the child welfare agency and court for appropriate accommodations.

The parent-client's lawyer should inform the parent client that if the parent does not appear at a hearing to which the parent has not been summoned or ordered to appear, the lawyer will exercise his or her best judgment about whether to advocate for the parent client's last known position, remain silent, and/or request a continuance.

If a parent fails to attend a hearing, the parent-client's lawyer may appear to explain the parent client's failure to appear and move to continue the hearing. If the parent client was not summoned or ordered to appear, the parent-client's lawyer should assess whether the parent client's interests are better served by advocating for the parent client's last clearly articulated position or declining to state a position in further court proceedings, and act accordingly.

After a prolonged period without contact with the parent client, the parent-client's lawyer should consider withdrawing from representation.

The parent-client's lawyer should learn about and understand the parent client's background, determine how that has an effect on the parent-client's case, and always show the parent client respect. The lawyer should understand how cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic differences impact interaction with the parent client, and should interpret the parent client's words and actions accordingly.

STANDARD 1.2B – RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GUARDIAN-CLIENT

- A. If the petition alleges deficits against the guardian, the guardian-client's lawyer must clearly explain the allegations made against the guardian client.**
- B. The guardian-client's lawyer must explain to the guardian client what is likely to happen before, during, and after trial and each hearing; and ascertain the guardian client's position on the issues raised in the petition.**
- C. The guardian-client's lawyer must explain what steps the guardian client can take to increase the likelihood of achieving the objectives of the representation.**
- D. The guardian-client's lawyer must advise the guardian client of the guardian's rights, the lawyer's role and responsibilities, the role of each participant in the system, and alternatives and options available to the guardian client.**
- E. The guardian-client's lawyer must advise the guardian client of the relevant state and federal statutory timelines and help the guardian client develop a system to remember important projected deadlines and important dates.**

- F. The parent-client's lawyer must take diligent steps to locate and communicate with a missing parent client and decide representation strategies based on that communication.**
- G. The guardian-client's lawyer must inform the guardian client that if the guardian client fails to appear for any hearing on a petition to establish jurisdiction to which the guardian client has been summoned or ordered to appear, the court has no discretion to allow the lawyer to appear on the merits of the case on the guardian client's behalf and that the court may allow the other parties to proceed in the guardian client's absence.**
- H. The guardian-client's lawyer must show respect and act professionally with the guardian client.**

Commentary:

The guardian-client's lawyer should provide or ensure that the guardian client is provided with copies of all petitions, court orders, service plans, and other relevant case documents, including reports regarding the child except when expressly prohibited by law, rule, or court order. The lawyer has an ethical obligation to share all information in the file with a client. A lawyer must consider this ethical obligation in determining how to share information with a client.

If the guardian client has difficulty reading, the guardian-client's lawyer should read the documents to the guardian client. In all cases, the lawyer should be available to discuss and explain the documents to the guardian client.

The guardian-client's lawyer and the guardian client should identify barriers to the guardian client engaging in services such as employment, transportation, financial issues, inability to read, and language differences. The lawyer should work with the guardian client, caseworker, and service provider to remove those barriers and advocate with the child welfare agency and court for appropriate accommodations.

The guardian-client's lawyer should inform the guardian client that if the guardian does not appear at a hearing to which the guardian has not been summoned or ordered to appear, the lawyer will exercise his or her best judgment about whether to advocate for the guardian client's last known position, remain silent, and/or request a continuance.

If a guardian fails to attend a hearing, the guardian-client's lawyer may appear to explain the guardian client's failure to appear and move to continue the hearing. If the guardian client was not summoned or ordered to appear, the guardian-client's lawyer should assess whether the guardian client's interests are better served by advocating for the guardian client's last clearly articulated position or declining to state a position in further court proceedings, and act accordingly.

After a prolonged period without contact with the guardian client, the guardian-client's lawyer should consider withdrawing from representation.

The guardian-client's lawyer should learn about and understand the guardian client's background, determine how that has an effect on the guardian-client's case, and always show the guardian client respect. The lawyer should understand how cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic differences impact interaction with the guardian client, and should interpret the guardian client's words and actions accordingly.

STANDARD 2.1 – COMMUNICATION

- A. The parent-client's lawyer must make reasonable efforts to make contact in writing, electronically, or in person within 3 business days.**
- B. During the first meeting with the parent client, the parent-client's lawyer must explain the lawyer's role, provide the parent client with contact information in writing, and establish an effective system for the parent client to communicate with the lawyer.**
- C. The parent-client's lawyer must ensure that a qualified interpreter is involved when the lawyer and parent client are not fluent in the same language and are engaged in substantive legal discussions.**
- D. The parent-client's lawyer must communicate with the parent's criminal defense lawyer about issues related to self-incrimination and concerns about delaying the dependency case to strengthen the criminal case or vice versa.**

Commentary:

Subsequent contact should take into consideration the preferred method of contact for the client.

After the first meeting, the parent-client's lawyer should have contact with the parent client before court hearings and Citizen Review Board (CRB) reviews, in response to contact by the parent client, when a significant change of circumstances must be discussed with the parent client, or when the lawyer is apprised of emergencies or significant events affecting the child.

The parent-client's lawyer should be available for in-person meetings or telephone calls to answer the parent client's questions and address the parent client's concerns. The lawyer and the parent client should work together to identify and review short- and long-term goals, particularly as circumstances change during the case.

The parent-client's lawyer should use a qualified interpreter when practical and would advance the aims of representation.

The lawyer should know why the parent client is incarcerated, the length of the parent client's incarceration, and post-incarceration release requirements if applicable, particularly any potential restrictions or limitations on contact with children. If the parent client is incarcerated

as a result of an act against the child or another child in the family, the child welfare agency may seek an order excusing the agency from making reasonable efforts, allowing the case to be fast tracked toward other permanency goals. If the parent client opposes this step, the parent-client's lawyer must oppose such a motion.

The parent-client's lawyer should help the parent client identify potential kinship placements and relatives who can provide care for the child while the parent client is incarcerated. The lawyer should understand the implications of the ASFA for an incarcerated parent client.

If the parent client will be incarcerated for a lengthy period, and the child is not placed with the parent-client's relatives, the parent-client's lawyer should ensure that any potential placement options for the child with a relative of the parent client, or other caretaker proposed by the parent client, are made known to the agency and explored thoroughly.

STANDARD 2.2 - CONFIDENTIALITY

- A. The parent-client's lawyer must abide by confidentiality laws, as well as ethical obligations, and adhere to both with respect to information obtained from or about the parent client.**
- B. Consistent with the parent client's interests and goals, the lawyer must seek to protect from disclosure confidential information concerning the parent client.**

Commentary:

The parent-client's lawyer should read the provisions of local court rules, state and federal law governing confidentiality of records and documents in juvenile court proceedings, and understand which records and documents are confidential under applicable law. The lawyer must appreciate the existing conflict or tension that exists about what documents and records that the lawyer can give to the parent client and which the lawyer cannot. The lawyer must understand that this is an evolving area of the law and regularly review the statutes and case law in this area.

The parent-client's lawyer should discuss with the parent client the potential consequences of communicating via electronic communication or broadcasting over social media.

STANDARD 2.3 – CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The parent-client's lawyer must follow Oregon RPC 1.7 to 1.13 relating to conflicts of interest and duties to former clients.

Commentary:

The parent-client's lawyer, or a lawyer associated in practice, should not represent two or more clients who are parties to the same or consolidated juvenile dependency cases or closely related matters unless it is clear there is no conflict of interest between the parties as defined by the Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct.

STANDARD 3.1 – EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE OF PARENT-CLIENT'S LAWYER

- A. The parent-client's lawyer must provide competent representation to a parent client. Competent representation requires the legal knowledge, skill, training, experience, thoroughness, and preparation reasonably necessary for the representation. The lawyer must not accept an appointment unless the lawyer is able to provide quality representation and diligent advocacy for the parent client.**
- B. The parent-client's lawyer must be sufficiently familiar with applicable state and federal law affecting dependency proceedings so as to be able to recognize when they are relevant to a case, and the lawyer should be prepared to research the laws when they are applicable.**
- C. The parent-client's lawyer must know how to offer documents, photos, physical objects, electronic records, etc. into evidence.**
- D. Prior to being accepting appointment in a dependency, termination of parental rights, or permanent guardianship case, a lawyer must be certified for that case type by OPDC, either independently or under supervision.**
- E. The parent-client's lawyer must be aware of the unique issues an incarcerated parent client faces in order to provide competent representation to the incarcerated parent client.**

Commentary:

The parent-client's lawyer must read and understand all state laws, policies, and procedures regarding child abuse, neglect, and other related matters, including but not limited to the following:

1. Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) chapters 419A, 419B and 419C, Oregon Juvenile Code;
2. ORS chapter 418, Child Welfare Services;
3. ORS 418.925–418.945, Refugee Child Act;
4. Oregon Revised Statutes concerning paternity, guardianships, and adoption;
5. ORS 417.200–417.260, Interstate Compact on Placement of Children, and Oregon Administrative Rules;

6. ORS 109.701–109.990, Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, and Oregon Administrative Rules;
7. The basic structure and functioning of the Department of Human Services and the juvenile court, including court procedures, the functioning of the CRB and CASA programs; and
8. Indian Child Welfare Act 25 USC §§ 1901 -1963; Bureau of Indian Affairs Guidelines; and Oregon Administrative Rules.

Newer lawyers are encouraged to work with mentors for the first three months and, at a minimum, should observe or co-counsel each type of dependency hearing from shelter care through review of permanent plan before accepting appointments.

The parent-client's lawyer should have a working knowledge of placement alternatives, child development, family dynamics, and parental discipline, as well as case and permanency planning, and services for children and families in dependency cases.

The parent-client's lawyer may need to advocate for reasonable/active efforts to be made for the incarcerated parent client and to assist the parent client and the agency caseworker in accessing services. The lawyer should assist the parent client by advocating both with the agency and the jail or correctional facility for these services.

The parent-client's lawyer should counsel the parent client on the importance of maintaining regular contact with the child while incarcerated. The lawyer should assist in developing a plan for communication and visitation by obtaining necessary court orders and working with the caseworker as well as the incarcerated parent's prison counselor.

The parent-client's lawyer should advise the client that phone calls are recorded and that letters and electronic communication are read and monitored. Information gleaned from these communications can be used against the parent client in this case.

If the parent client wants to be transported to court for a hearing, the parent-client's lawyer should move the court for a transport order to do so. If the parent client does not want to be present, or if having the parent client present is not possible, the lawyer should explore what other means are available to have the parent client participate, such as by telephone or video conference. The lawyer should obtain any necessary court order and make the necessary arrangements for the parent client to participate in the hearing.

STANDARD 3.2 – OBLIGATIONS OF PARENT-CLIENT COUNSEL REGARDING WORKLOAD

Before accepting appointment as counsel, the parent-client’s lawyer has an obligation to ensure that they have sufficient time, resources, knowledge, and experience to offer quality representation to a parent-client in a dependency matter without hampering their representation of existing clients. If it later appears that the lawyer is unable to offer quality representation in the case, the lawyer must move to withdraw.

Commentary:

A lawyer should have access to sufficient support services and resources to allow for quality representation, including investigation.

A lawyer should evaluate their ability to appear in court with clients when deciding whether to accept an appointment in a case. Lawyers should not overly rely on other lawyers to cover their appearances.

When possible, lawyers should appear in person or in the same manner as their clients.

STANDARD 4.1 – THEORY OF THE CASE

- A. The parent-client’s lawyer should actively represent the parent client in the preparation of a case, as well as at hearings.**
- B. The parent-client’s lawyer should develop a theory and strategy of the case to implement at hearings, including the development of factual and legal issues.**

Commentary:

The parent-client’s lawyer should, when consistent with the parent client’s interest, take every appropriate step to expedite the proceedings.

The parent-client’s lawyer should identify family members and professionals who may already be, or who may become, a stable and long-term resource for the family and/or a placement for the child.

The parent-client’s lawyer should communicate with lawyers for the other parties, the CASA, the caseworker, and service providers to learn about the parent client’s progress and their views of the case, as appropriate.

STANDARD 4.2 – OUT OF COURT ADVOCACY

- A. The parent-client’s lawyer must advocate for the parent client both in and out of court.**
- B. The parent-client’s lawyer must engage in case planning and advocate for a case plan and social services that will help achieve the parent client’s goals in the case.**
- C. If the parent client’s goals include a continued relationship with the child, the parent-client’s lawyer should advocate strongly for frequent visitation in a family-friendly setting.**
- D. The parent-client’s lawyer or the lawyer’s agent may not contact a represented party without the consent of the party’s lawyer(s).**

Commentary:

The parent-client’s lawyer should counsel the parent client about the advantages and disadvantages of engaging in services before the court orders the client to engage in such services and determine whether the parent client is willing to engage in services. If the parent client is willing to engage in services, the lawyer should advocate for those services.

The parent-client’s lawyer should ensure the parent client asks for and receives needed services. The lawyer should not agree to services that are beyond the scope of the case.

Whenever possible, the parent-client’s lawyer should use a social worker as part of the parent-client’s team to help determine an appropriate case plan, evaluate social services suggested for the parent client, and act as a liaison and advocate for the parent client with the service providers.

When necessary, the parent-client’s lawyer should seek court orders to compel the child welfare agency to provide frequent, unsupervised visitation to the parent client. The lawyer may also need to take action to enforce previously entered orders.

The parent-client’s lawyer should advocate for an effective visiting plan and counsel the parent client on the importance of regular contact with the child. Courts and the agency may need to be encouraged to develop visitation plans that best fit the needs of the individual family.

A parent-client’s lawyer who plans to attend case-planning meetings should be aware that other represented parties may be present without their lawyers and should take necessary steps to comply with the Rules of Professional Conduct. A parent-client’s lawyer who does not plan to attend case-planning meetings should be aware that other represented parties will attend with their lawyers at the meeting and should take steps to protect the client’s interests.

STANDARD 5 – PRE-PETITION

- A. The parent-client’s lawyer should counsel the parent client about the client’s rights in the investigation stage as well as the realistic possibility of achieving the parent client’s goals.**
- B. The parent-client’s lawyer should discuss available services and help the parent client engage in those in which the parent client wishes to participate.**

Commentary:

If a parent client would likely be eligible for appointed counsel at state expense if served with a juvenile court petition, and prepetition representation is necessary to preserve and protect the rights of the parent client, the parent-client’s lawyer may seek approval from the Oregon Public Defense Commission (OPDC) for funding to commence representation prior to court appointment. Contact OPDC for more information.

During the prepetition phase of a dependency case, the parent-client’s lawyer has the opportunity to work with the parent client and help the client to fully understand the issues and the parent client’s chances of securing desired outcomes. The lawyer also has the chance to encourage the agency to make reasonable efforts to work with the family, rather than filing a petition. During this phase, the lawyer should work intensively to explore all appropriate services, including assistance with legal problems involving housing, criminal case matters, public benefits, services for children, domestic violence, and alternate placement plans that might resolve the case. The lawyer should explore opportunities for substantive case meetings such as case-planning meetings or case reviews and, when appropriate, attend those meetings.

STANDARD 6 – INVESTIGATION

- A. The parent-client’s lawyer must conduct a thorough, continuing, and independent review and investigation of the case, including obtaining information, research, and discovery in order to prepare the case for trial and hearings.**
- B. The parent-client’s lawyer must review the case record of the parent client and the supplemental confidential file, and the case record of the child’s siblings when permitted by the juvenile code, Oregon Rules of Professional Conduct, and other confidentiality statutes.**
- C. The parent-client’s lawyer must review relevant photographs, video or audio recordings, and other evidence. When necessary, the lawyer should obtain protective orders to keep information confidential once obtained.**
- D. The parent-client’s lawyer must research and review relevant statutes and case law to identify defenses and legal arguments to support the parent-client’s case.**

- E. The parent-client's lawyer must obtain all necessary documents, including copies of all pleadings and relevant notices filed by other parties, and respond to requests for documents from other parties.**
- F. The parent-client's lawyer should have potential witnesses, including adverse witnesses, interviewed by an investigator or other appropriately trained person. If appropriate, witnesses should be subpoenaed.**

Commentary:

The parent-client's lawyer should contact lawyers for the other parties and any CASA for background information.

The parent-client's lawyer should obtain necessary releases of information in order to thoroughly investigate the case.

The parent-client's lawyer should review the internet presence or personas for parties and witnesses.

The parent-client's lawyer should determine whether obtaining independent evaluations or assessments of the parent client is needed for the investigation of the case.

The parent-client's lawyer should attend treatment, placement, and administrative hearings involving the parent client and child as needed.

The parent-client's lawyer should ask for and review the agency case file as early during the course of representation as possible and at regular intervals throughout the case. After reviewing the agency file, the parent-client's lawyer should determine if any records or case notes of any caseworker or supervisor have not been placed in the file and move to obtain those records as well either through informal or formal discovery.

It is a good practice to have interviews conducted by an investigator employed by the parent-client's lawyer. However, if the lawyer conducts the interview, a third person, such as a member of the lawyer's office, should be present so that the third person can be used at trial to impeach the witness.

STANDARD 7 – COURT PREPARATION

- A. The parent-client's lawyer must develop a case theory and strategy to follow at hearings and negotiations. Once the parent-client's lawyer has completed the initial investigation and discovery, including interviews with the parent client, the lawyer must develop a strategy for representation.**

- B. The parent-client's lawyer should timely file all pleadings, motions, answers, responses, objections, discovery requests, responsive pleadings, appropriate memoranda, and briefs, and research applicable legal issues and advance legal arguments when appropriate. All filings must be thorough, accurate, timely, and appropriately served on all the lawyers or unrepresented parties.**
- C. The parent-client's lawyer must communicate all settlement offers to the parent client and discuss their advantages and disadvantages with the client including the rights that would be waived by a decision to admit to facts sufficient to establish jurisdiction and the impact of timelines established by ORS 419B.470 et. seq.**
- D. It is the parent client's decision whether to enter admissions. The parent-client's lawyer must be willing to try the case and not compromise solely to avoid the hearing.**
- E. The parent-client's lawyer must take reasonable steps to prepare the parent client to testify.**
- F. The parent-client's lawyer must take reasonable steps to prepare witnesses who have been identified and located, including expert witnesses, in addition to evidence and exhibits in formats consistent with local court rules as is consistent with the case theory and strategy for representation.**

Commentary:

When a case presents a complicated or new legal issue, the parent-client's lawyer should conduct the appropriate research before appearing in court and should consider preparing a memorandum of law to present to the court. The parent-client's lawyer should be prepared to distinguish case law that appears unfavorable and to preserve challenges to unfavorable law if the argument is unlikely to prevail at trial level.

With the parent client's permission, and when appropriate, the parent-client's lawyer should engage in settlement negotiations and mediation to resolve the case quickly. The parent-client's lawyer should explain to the parent client the conditions and limits of the settlement and the effect of the settlement, especially when admissions made to allegations could give rise to a criminal charge or finding of aggravated circumstances or extreme conduct. These admissions could affect future actions such as domestic relations proceedings, immigration proceedings, criminal proceedings, or termination-of-parental-rights petitions.

The parent-client's lawyer should discuss and practice the questions that the lawyer will ask the parent client, as well as types of questions the parent client should expect opposing counsel to ask. The lawyer should help the parent client think through the best way to present information, familiarize the parent client with the court setting, and offer guidance on logistical issues regarding getting to court on time and appropriate court attire.

STANDARD 8 – HEARINGS

- A. The parent-client's lawyer must prepare for and participate in all hearings and other court appearances. That participation must include:**
 - 1. offering available exhibits and testimony if it advances the parent client's position;
 - 2. Making motions and objections consistent with the parent client's objectives and case strategy; and
 - 3. Making closing arguments that advocate for findings of fact, conclusions of law, and orders that are consistent with the parent client's objectives.
- B. The parent-client's lawyer must be prepared to state and explain the parent client's position at each hearing.**
- C. The parent-client's lawyer must be able to competently present witnesses to advance the parent-client's position. The lawyer must also be competent at cross-examining opposing parties' witnesses. The lawyer must know how to offer documents, photos, physical objects, electronic records, etc. into evidence.**
- D. The parent-client's lawyer must be strategic in determining when to request and when to make an opening statement.**
- E. If the court proceeds in the absence of the parent-client's lawyer, the lawyer should consider filing a motion to set aside.**

Commentary:

The parent-client's lawyer should seek out training in trial skills and watch other lawyers to learn from them. Presenting and cross-examining witnesses are skills with which the lawyer must be comfortable. In particular, examining or cross-examining a child requires unique skills.

STANDARD 9 – POST HEARINGS

- A. The parent-client's lawyer must advise the parent client about complying with court orders. If the parent client is negatively affected by other parties' non-compliance with court orders, the parent-client's lawyer must consider filing for a hearing.**
- B. The parent-client's lawyer must determine a reasonable frequency at which to assess the progress of a case and take any necessary action for each case.**
- C. Once an order or judgment is final, the parent-client's lawyer must offer the parent client and the opportunity to review the judgment or order together, which should include a copy of the judgment or order.**

- D. If a judgment or order is inconsistent with a parent-client's objectives, the lawyer must counsel the parent client about any options to appeal, or, if the order was entered by a referee, request a rehearing pursuant to ORS 419A.150, but must explain that the order is in effect unless a stay or other relief is secured.**
- E. If the parent-client requests to appeal, the parent-client's lawyer must timely submit an appellate referral.**

Commentary:

At the conclusion of a hearing, the parent-client's lawyer should request and obtain a copy of the written order or judgment to ensure it reflects the court's verbal order. If the order or judgment is incorrect, that is, it does not reflect the court's verbal rulings, the parent-client's lawyer should take whatever steps are necessary to correct it to the extent that the corrections are beneficial to the parent client.

When reviewing any judgment or order with a client, the parent-client's lawyer should endeavor to explain the material in multiple ways and discuss whether the client should receive a copy of the judgment or order.

If an order or judgment adversely affects the parent client, the parent-client's lawyer should advise the client of the remedies, which include moving to modify or set aside the order or judgment.

If an appeal is requested, the parent's lawyer should identify for the appellate lawyer: the parties to the case (for example whether there are any interveners), appropriate issues for appeal, and promptly respond to all requests for additional information or documents necessary for the appellate lawyer to prosecute the appeal. The lawyer should promptly comply with the court's order to return exhibits necessary for appeal.

If another party appeals an order or judgment, the parent-client's lawyer should consult with their client and, if needed, submit an appellate referral.



Parent Child Representation Program (PCRPP) Attorney Expectations (DRAFT)

November 2025

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Parent Child Representation Program Lawyer Expectations

INTRODUCTION

PCRP History

The Parent Child Representation Program (PCRP) was initially funded by the Oregon State Legislature in 2013 to enhance the quality of legal representation for parents and children in juvenile dependency and termination of parental rights cases. It later expanded to juvenile delinquency cases. PCRP started in Linn and Yamhill County in August of 2014. Since then, the program has expanded to eight other counties: Columbia (2016), Coos (2018), Lincoln (2018), Multnomah (2020), Benton (2021), Clatsop (2021), Douglas (2021), and Polk (2021).

The purpose of PCRP is to ensure competent and effective legal representation throughout the life of the case by ensuring reduced lawyer caseloads, the provision of specialized support services, and adherence to best practices for lawyer performance. PCRP aims to achieve positive outcomes for children and families through the reduction of the use of foster care and reduced time to permanency for children. Repeated studies show that when lawyers for parents have reasonable caseloads, the lawyers spend more time with parents and, as a result, both parents and children have better experiences with the child welfare system¹. When PCRP expanded to delinquency cases, there was a similar expectation – more lawyer time and a holistic defense team will lead to better outcomes for children such as fewer interactions with the delinquency system, more successful completions of probation, reduced custody time, and better case outcomes².

In 2016, the legislatively created Oregon Task Force on Dependency Representation released a report recommending in part that OPDC adopt PCRP statewide³. It found that high quality and consistent legal representation is necessary to ensure successful navigation and participation in dependency proceedings. Additionally, it found that improved representation correlates with improved outcomes for families and cost savings and efficiencies for states⁴. This held true for PCRP which had been operating for two years at the time of the report:

¹ Laver, *Improving Representation for Parents in the Child Welfare System*, American Bar Association Children's Rights Litigation (2013).

Courtney, Hook, and Orme, [*Evaluation of the Impact of Enhanced Parental Legal Representation on the Timing of Permanency Outcomes for Children in Foster Care*](#), Partners For Our Children Discussion Paper (2011)

² James M. Anderson, Maya Buenaventura and Paul Heaton, *The effects of holistic defense on criminal justice outcomes*, Vol. 132, No. 3(Harvard Law Review January 2019). Note – this article discusses criminal representation and the impacts of holistic defense which has shown financial savings due to reduction in custodial sentences and length of sentence without harming public safety.

³ [Oregon Task Force on Dependency Representation Report](#) (2016)

⁴ Id at 17.

- Reduced Rate of Foster Care: The initial two PCRCP counties had an average foster care reduction rate of 19% in 2014 and 13% during the first six months of 2015, compared to a statewide decrease of 4.33% in 2014 and a statewide increase of 0.44% during the first six months of 2015.⁵
- Increased Reunification Rate: In the initial two PCRCP counties, from 2014 to June 2015, the rate of reunification increased by 6.5% while the increase was 1.7% statewide.⁶

PCRCP Program

PCRCP is a multidisciplinary model of legal representation for parents, children, and youth in juvenile court proceedings. A multidisciplinary legal team means the representation team consists of more than just a lawyer - it includes individuals with other areas of expertise. In PCRCP, the case managers assist the lawyer and client from a social work perspective. The PCRCP key components include:

- 1) Workload model - Reasonable caseloads that make it possible for lawyers to have frequent contact with clients, conduct independent investigations, and advocate in and out of court at every stage of the juvenile court case,
- 2) Case Managers - Inclusion of social work case managers as part of the legal representation team in 10% to 15% of cases, and
- 3) Enhanced oversight and accountability.

Workload model

A 1.0 FTE PCRCP lawyers maintains an open workload of 80 cases. A 1.0 FTE non-PCRCP lawyer contracts under the Maximum Attorney Caseload (MAC) model which requires 69 *new* dependency case assignments per year, or 132 *new* delinquency case assignments per year.⁷ Statewide, 86.2%⁸ of dependency cases take over a year to get to their first permanency hearing. The permanency hearing is where the court assesses a parent's progress and considers if the plan for the child should remain reunification with parent or switch to new plan such as adoption or guardianship. Cases continue for varying lengths of time, with some cases staying on a lawyer's caseload for multiple years. The non-PCRCP model does not account for existing open cases from the prior year, meaning these lawyers will have significantly higher caseloads.

Case Managers

Case managers fulfill a social work function as part of the multidisciplinary defense team. They work as an agent of the lawyer to assess and address client needs,

⁵ Id

⁶ Id

⁷ Lawyers who take cases in dependency and delinquency use a mixed-caseload calculator to determine how many of each case type to take in a year. For example, if they took 50 new dependency cases in a year, they would also take 37 new delinquency cases that same year.

⁸ This is an average based on Oregon Judicial Department data from 2017-2024. See [PowerBI Dashboard – Dependency Cases Filed – Time To first Permanency Hearing](#)

motivate parents, develop alternative plans for children, youth and families for visitation and release from custody and much more. Case managers are a limited resource. OPDC contracts directly with case managers to provide coverage for 10-15% of cases in PCRCP counties. Their work does not encompass tasks performed by juvenile court counselors or Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) caseworkers. Case managers often improve a client's relationship with caseworkers and counselors, which is a driver in improved outcomes. Case managers receive training, support, and oversight by two administrators. The Case Manager Administrators recruit new case managers, manage the referral process, provide training, direct case support, and meet with system providers and partners for feedback in PCRCP counties.

Case managers are accessible to all lawyers through the Pre-Authorized Expense (PAE) system. However, PAE case managers do not receive any technical support or training and have no oversight from OPDC. Because there is no active recruitment there are also very few individuals performing case management services through the PAE system.

Enhanced Oversight and Accountability

PCRCP lawyers and case managers are the only programs that submit time tracking to OPDC in invoice or report form. They have consistent meetings with OPDC every year going over caseloads, county trends, time tracking issues, and case manager usage.

PCRCP ATTORNEY EXPECTATIONS

PCRCP lawyers have fewer open cases open than non-PCRCP juvenile lawyers. They also have access to trained and supported Case Managers, and more opportunity for advocacy and attention to individual cases. While all juvenile lawyers must meet the same baseline standards, PCRCP lawyers have higher expectations. This document outlines the PCRCP expectations.

OPDC understands that some of these expectations rely on client participation and responsiveness. In some cases, a client is unwilling or unable to engage. In those circumstances the lawyer must make reasonable efforts towards engagement. For the purpose of this document, when not specifically defined under the expectation, "attempt" means that the lawyer tries multiple times using multiple methods to achieve an outcome. The type of attempts and number must be reasonable based on the totality of the case circumstances. Extra attention and effort must be spent towards clients under 18.

EXPECTATION 1 – CHILD CLIENT VISITATION

A PCRCP lawyer must personally visit their client where they are residing every six months.

If the child is placed out of state, the lawyer is only required to visit in person once per year. The other visit may be conducted by other members of the lawyer's defense team, by video or phone.

The lawyer must visit the client in home when a child is returned to a parent. The lawyer should visit their client anytime a placement change occurs. If the lawyer is unable to, a staff member may visit in the lawyer's place.

A lawyer is exempt from this requirement if the child-client's location is unknown or if there is strong evidence the child-client will be adversely affected by communicating with their lawyer. If a child-client refuses to communicate with their lawyer, the lawyer must still visit their placement, unless it will adversely impact the child-client or the case.

EXPECTATION 2 – YOUTH CLIENT VISITATION (DELINQUENCY)

1. Pre-Trial

A PCRCP lawyer must meet with their client in person in a confidential setting once per month. Between monthly meetings, the lawyer must have at least one confidential conversation with client.

2. Post Adjudication:

A. In custody youth clients:

A PCRCP lawyer must regularly visit their in-custody youth clients and have regular phone or text contact in between in person visits. The lawyer must visit in person at least every six months.

B. Out of custody youth clients:

A PCRCP lawyer should attempt to regularly meet with the youth in office, the youth's home, or in the community. The lawyer must have or attempt to have an in-person meeting at least every six months. Between in person meetings the lawyer should maintain regular phone or text contact with the youth.

An attempt to meet with a client means the lawyer has reached out multiple times to the client, the parents/resource placement (if appropriate), or school (if appropriate). The lawyer must use the client's preferred method of reaching out. If a client refuses or does not respond, the lawyer should attempt to meet the client in person.

EXPECTATION 3 – ATTENDANCE AT SUBSTANTIVE CLIENT MEETINGS

A PCRCP lawyer must attend a majority of substantive client meetings that impact or affect their client's case or ability to meet court expectations. This includes but is not limited to:

1. Substantive meetings with Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Caseworker

Some clients and caseworkers communicate and meet as often as daily or weekly. Lawyers are not expected to participate in such frequent meetings or discussions. However, the lawyer should participate in more substantive meetings that cover things like safety planning, return criteria, and client progress. If no such meetings are scheduled, the lawyer should schedule them as appropriate.

2. Wraparound Service meetings (WRAP)

WRAP is a program for multi-system involved children and their families. WRAP is an intensive team-based planning process that helps children and families meet their goals. The team consists of the child, family members, natural supports, and professionals.

3. Family Decision Meetings (FDM)

A FDM is a family meeting coordinated by ODHS that brings together relevant family members and their representatives to discuss the child needs, parent/s needs, reunification, and other relevant case related topics.

4. Substantive Juvenile Court Counselor (JCC) Meetings

As with ODHS meetings discussed above, some clients interact with their JCC weekly or daily. A lawyer is not expected to participate in those meetings. However, when the JCC and youth are meeting about substantive issues or issues that could impact custody status, court reports, or services, the lawyer is expected to attend. If no meetings are scheduled, the lawyer should discuss with client if any meetings should be scheduled.

5. Substantive and relevant meetings client may have with others.

Clients sometimes have other meetings that impact their case. These may include but are not limited to Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings, feedback sessions with a psychological evaluator, meetings with another party and/or their lawyer, and meetings with a school counselor. If the meeting is focused on another party such as a child, the lawyer and client should meet to discuss how to best be involved in the meetings.

Anytime a lawyer has a meeting that involves their client and other participants, the lawyer must communicate or attempt to communicate with a client before the meeting to discuss the purpose and goals of the meeting. Attorneys should use client's preferred method of communication (e.g., email, phone call, text, etc.) to schedule a time to discuss the meeting plan. The lawyer should prepare any needed documents, work with client at identifying helpful information to present or discuss and prepare the client for the type of information or feedback that may be discussed.

In the meetings, the lawyer should actively engage and support their client in engaging as appropriate. Even if the client is not in attendance, the lawyer should be prepared to participate and advocate as they are able to, to further the client's goals.

Following the meeting, the lawyer should complete any necessary follow-up tasks, debrief with the client, and determine if any additional next steps are needed.

EXPECTATION 4 – CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD HEARINGS (CRB)

PCRPs lawyers must attend their clients' Citizen Review Board (CRB) hearings. If a hearing is scheduled without a lawyer's knowledge, the lawyer must make an effort to have the hearing rescheduled. If the CRB is unwilling to reschedule, the lawyer must send a case manager, legal assistant, or investigator.

A PCRPs lawyer must prepare for a CRB hearing. At a minimum, the lawyer will gather any necessary information prior to the meeting and discuss the CRB with the client. Following the CRB the lawyer must discuss the findings and any impact they may or may not have on a case.

EXPECTATION 5 - ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH EXPERTS

A PCRPs lawyer must use an engagement letter with any expert or group of experts. This letter must lay out the request for the expert including materials to review, any interviews or evaluations the expert is conducting and, if appropriate, what expectation there will be for a report.

If there is information that should not be in writing, the lawyer is not obligated to include that information in an engagement letter.

EXPECTATION 6 – CLIENT ENGAGEMENT

A PCRPs lawyer must meet or attempt to meet with a client for a substantive conversation outside of the courthouse for the following events:

1. Any important decision affecting a child/youth client's life.
If the lawyer is aware that other parties or the court is making a decision, the lawyer should discuss the decision and options with the client. If the lawyer is not aware prior to a decision being made, they must meet and discuss the decision, including what options the youth/child has after the fact.

2. In response to client request for a meeting.
3. Following (and, when possible, before) significant transitions including but not limited to, initial removal, changes in placement for a child or youth, a child or youth returning to a parent, entering, or leaving residential treatment, etc.
4. When a significant change of circumstances must be discussed or when the lawyer learns of an emergency or significant event affecting the youth, child, or parent.

EXPECTATION 7 – DELINQUENCY RELEASE HEARING PREPARATION FOR IN CUSTODY YOUTH

A PCRPP lawyer must meet with any in custody delinquency clients and put together a comprehensive release plan and present it to the juvenile court. If lawyer has a case manager on the case, the lawyer and case manager should work together on the release plan.

In preparation for the release hearing the lawyer must discuss statutory release criteria with the youth and prepared to address the court regarding these factors including residence, school attendance, employment, compliance with release conditions such as no contact with alleged victims, and any release compliance monitoring. The lawyer should work with the youth, the youth's parents or caretakers, and the juvenile department to develop an appropriate release plan. The lawyer should seek out services and supports, as appropriate, to augment an appropriate release plan.

EXPECTATION 8 – CASE MANAGER ASSIGNMENT

A PCRPP lawyer must have or attempt to have a PCRPP case manager assigned to 10-15% of their caseload. Attorneys request Case Managers through the standard process developed and administered by the Case Manager Administrators. If their case goes on the Case Manager Waitlist, the lawyer must update the Case Manager Administrators of any change of circumstances that would impact the case priority.

EXPECTATION 9– EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION WITH ASSIGNED PCRPP CASE MANAGER

A PCRPP lawyer must effectively use the PCRPP case manager assigned to the case.

PCRPP case managers are agents of the lawyer appointed to the case. The lawyer directs the actions of the case manager. PCRPP lawyers must actively engage, communicate, and provide clear direction. While each case may have different requirements, examples of effective use include:

1. Oversight to ensure case managers provide appropriate services that are responsive to client's needs.

2. Direct case manager activities.
3. Timely sharing of all discovery and appropriate information about a client with a case manager.
4. Informing other parties that of case manager assignment and indicating what types of emails and communications the case manager should be included on.
5. Informing case manager of all relevant dates and rescheduled dates including but not limited to hearings, CRB, and ODHS meetings.
6. Including case manager on all communications with other parties as appropriate.
7. Communicating regularly with the case manager, including responding to any case manager questions in a timely manner. This also includes responding when a case manager asks for direction on how to respond to a situation or issue.
8. Discussing the case plan and case strategy with the Case Manager,
9. Consulting with case manager regarding client progress, client updates, and other relevant information a case manager can provide.
10. Regularly reviewing or discussing client and client's case with Case Manager.

EXPECTATION 10 – TIMEKEEPING

A PCRП lawyer must track their time following OPDC's standards and must stay abreast of OPDC timekeeping rules and submit reports timely.

EXPECTATION 11 – TRACKING CLIENT TIME

A PCRП lawyer is expected to spend 1/3 of their time with clients who have decision making capacity. OPDC tracks this using the PCRП Activity Report metric "client time."

EXPECTATION 12 - PCRП MEETINGS WITH OPDC

A PCRП lawyer must attend the OPDC scheduled bi-annual county PCRП meetings. If they cannot attend a meeting, they must reach out to OPDC Resource Counsel for updates and materials covered during the meeting.