

# 10 Reasons Client-Directed Legal Representation for Children is Best Practice

## Client-Directed Legal Representation:

- 1** Minimizes bias
- 2** Treats children as experts in their own lives, maximizing their voice in critical decisions about their safety, wellbeing, and permanency
- 3** Ensures independent legal representation, free from any obligation to another party, entity, or the court
- 4** Provides the child or youth client the professional duties of competence, confidentiality, diligence, and loyalty
- 5** Requires an attorney to learn and determine the client's case goals
- 6** Ensures judges have the information they need
- 7** Coexists with guardians ad litem and/or Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers who serve a distinct but complementary role in child protection court
- 8** Improves youth perception of the fairness of proceedings and acceptance of results
- 9** Allows zealous advocacy for babies, toddlers, and youth with diminished capacity through established guidance governing the practice of law
- 10** Requires an attorney to counsel and advise youth on their rights and options

Learn more at [CounselforKids.org](https://CounselforKids.org)

