

# How a Client-Directed Attorney Represents a Child



## Listens

- Gets to know child and their needs
- Establishes confidential attorney-client relationship where child feels comfortable sharing sensitive information



## Counsels

- Explains legal process and their role
- Describes purpose of court hearings
- Discusses child's legal options and potential outcomes



## Investigates

- Maintains regular communication with child about their case, needs, and safety concerns
- Ensures child receives necessary and timely services and regular family time
- Explores potential caregivers – such as relative caregivers and foster homes



## Litigates

- Protects rights – including notice and opportunity to participate in case discussions, including safety, family, and sibling connections
- Prepares youth to be present and participate in meetings and in court
- Applies legal advocacy skills and tools to promote child's perspective to the judge