



Children in court need attorneys of their own. *We're working to make sure they have them.*

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

- 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

### CONTACT

**Natalece Washington, JD, CWLS**

Policy Counsel, National Association of Counsel for Children

[Natalece.Washington@NACCchildlaw.org](mailto:Natalece.Washington@NACCchildlaw.org)

[CounselforKids.org](http://CounselforKids.org)  
[#Counsel4Kids](https://twitter.com/Counsel4Kids)  
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