

**OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT  
Malheur County Circuit Court  
Ninth Judicial District**

*J. Burdette Pratt  
Presiding Judge  
541.473.5178*



*Patricia Sullivan  
Circuit Judge  
541.473.5194*

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September 17, 2010

Dear School Official:

Please be advised that the following child (ren) appeared in Court on this date:

Children who are wards of the juvenile court have a case worker, an attorney and in most cases, a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). Hopefully, you will have had, or will soon have, contact with these people as they obtain information about the child's school performance to provide to the Court.

In the future, the case worker will advise when one of your students has a hearing and of the date and time of the hearing. We will try to schedule hearings for school age children after school, but this is not always possible. If the child misses school for a court hearing, we would request that you not penalize the child in any way, and your assistance in helping the child make up any missed assignments would be greatly appreciated. In the event the hearing is scheduled at the same time as something of vital importance to the child, such as an important test, standardized testing or a special event, please advise the case worker immediately so we can try and accommodate the child's needs.

We also want teachers to be aware of these hearings so they can account for behavior changes that may manifest before and after the hearing and assist the child accordingly. We also welcome any input from the schools regarding the child. You can provide information through the caseworker, the attorney or the CASA.

We are aware that court appearances cause disruptions in the lives of children, many of whom are sensitive about their status as wards of the court and do not want this information shared with others. We rely on your discretion in handling these matters. Please remember the Juvenile Court is making decisions of critical importance to the child, such as where he or she will live and what kind of contact he or she will have with parents, siblings and relatives. The presence of the children at the hearing is very important to our process. We hope you will assist us in helping children have a voice in juvenile court.

Sincerely,

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Patricia Sullivan, Circuit Judge