

JCIP: Through The Eyes of a Child 2018
Addressing the Needs of LGBTQI+ Foster Youth
Judge's Checklist

In the Courtroom:

- Do I ensure that caseworkers take appropriate steps to meet the needs of the LGBTQI+ foster youth who are in their care?
- Am I aware of the preferred name of anyone who appears in my court (if different from legal name) and pronoun?
- Do I follow the cues of a party's attorney for how to address a party?
- Do I require counsel and caseworkers to refer to a party by their preferred name and pronoun while addressing the court?

In the Courthouse:

- Is courthouse staff aware of the importance of respecting pronoun preference in interacting with parties and do they know that you expect this of them?
- Is there signage outside the courtroom letting people know that your courtroom is a place where their gender identity and orientation will be respected (inviting them to notify the court of the correct pronunciation of their name and the preferred pronoun or sign indicating that your courtroom is a Safe Zone)?

Outside the Courthouse:

- Call a meeting of the relevant groups that touch on the lives of foster youth (DHS, AAG, CASA, CRB, service providers, former foster youth, foster parents, etc.)
- Assess whether or not your county is effectively serving the needs of LGBTQI+ foster youth:
 - Are you aware of any LGBTQI+ foster youth served by your court?
 - If so, are their unique needs being met?
 - If not, why not (foster youth may not be "out" or those responsible for their care may be ignoring their status and needs)?
 - Are caseworkers adequately trained and supported by their branch?
 - Is CRB holding DHS accountable for serving foster youth who identify as LGBTQI+?
 - Is CASA screening and training volunteers?
 - Are there service providers (such as medical and mental health) in your community who are adequately trained to serve the unique needs of LGBTQI+ foster youth?
- Assemble a core group to work toward filling service gaps