

Kids and Teens in Court

(Revised 03/16/18)

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Description

Kids and Teens in Court is a program that provides children who are called as witnesses in Juvenile Court with an explanation of court procedures and prepares the child for the court experience. It is run by a grant through Rady Children's Hospital, and has advocates available to assist with transportation as well as to provide advocacy and support to the child at the time of testimony. There are no age limits on children.

Kids and Teens in Court is only available at Meadow Lark and is available to all children regardless of where the child lives. See [Kids and Teens in Court Program](#) for more information. (**NOTE:** If, after clicking the link, a dialog box appears asking for credentials, the SW will leave those boxes blank and click either "OK" or "Cancel" to proceed to the website.)

SCPs are encouraged to attend so they will also be prepared for the court experience and so they can help alleviate any of the child's worries.

Some courthouses have child-friendly waiting rooms. For information, refer to the Children's Waiting Rooms section in the Family Court Protocol.

Child's attorney's responsibilities

When a child will be, or may be, called as a witness, the attorney calling the child will inform the child's attorney. It is the responsibility of the child's attorney to arrange for the child to attend Kids and Teens in Court by calling (858) 966-8682 to set up an appointment and/or ask questions. Appointments are required because groups will be held only if at least one child is registered.

SW responsibilities

If assistance with transportation or referrals to Kids and Teens in Court is needed, the SW will facilitate it.

Alignment with SET

This policy supports the following SET Values:

- [Value 4](#): **Shared Responsibility with Community Partners**, through using community resources to help support the child's voice in court.
 - [Value 5](#): **A Strong Working Relationship with the Legal System**, through collaborating with the child's attorney to ensure that the child feels as supported as possible when testifying in court.
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