

UTAH

PRACTICE ELEVATED

2012 Court Improvement Summit

Foster Parents and Court Hearings

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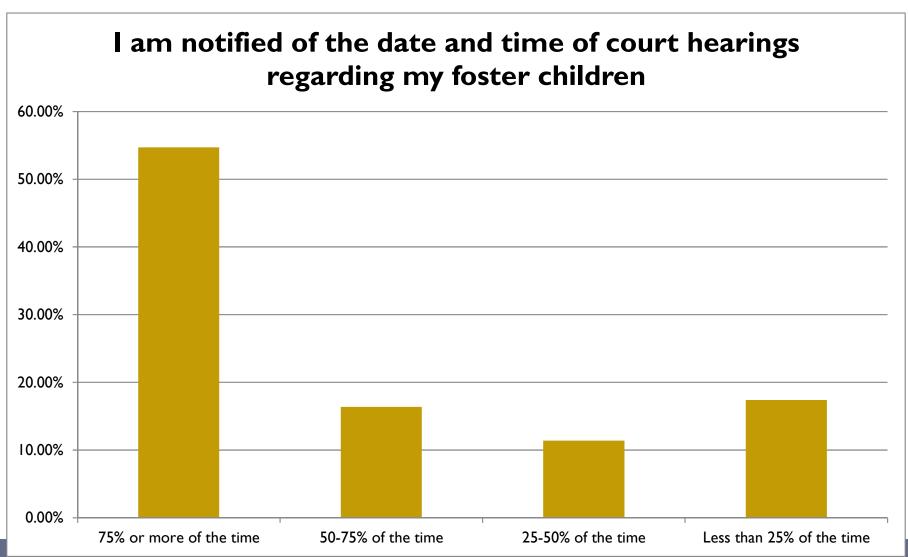
Legal Basis

- Juvenile Court Act -78A-6-317. All proceedings -- Persons entitled to be present
- (1) A child who is the subject of a juvenile court hearing, any person entitled to notice pursuant to Section 78A-6-306 or 78A-6-310, **preadoptive parents**, **foster parents**, **and any relative** providing care for the child, are:
 - (a) entitled to notice of, and to be present at, each hearing and proceeding held under this part, including administrative reviews; and
 - (b) have a right to be heard at each hearing and proceeding described in Subsection (1)(a).

Federal Review Finding

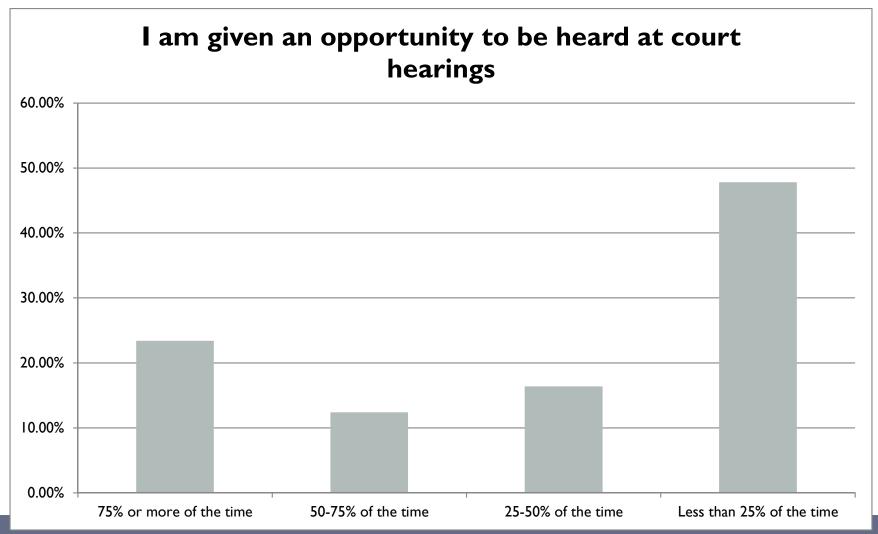
- The federal Child and Family Services Review evaluates the following:
 - Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers: The state provides a process for foster parents, preadoptive parents, and relative caregivers of children in foster care to be notified of, and have an opportunity to be heard in, any review or hearing held with respect to the child.
- Finding: Utah was not in substantial conformity.

Foster Parent Survey Findings



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Foster Parent Survey Findings



Foster Parent Survey Findings

- Open-ended responses indicated
 - They felt it was important, as the day to day caregivers of the child, to have the opportunity to give input.
 - Several expressed that they felt their input was not desired or valued

Suggestions for improvement on notification

- 77% strongly agree they would like access to a **website** to get information on their foster children's court dates, fines, and community service hours.
- 80% would like an **email** regarding changes to court date information

Suggestions for improvement on having a voice

• A large number of open ended responses suggested that it should be part of the court process to ask Foster Parents/caregivers for their input and that courts should designate someone who is responsible to make sure this happens.

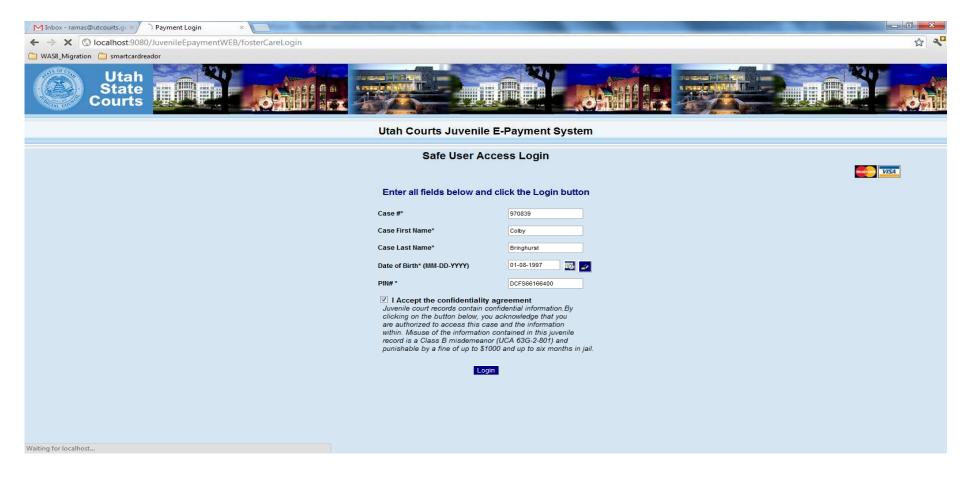
Email

 Modify Foster Parent Agreements to include expectation to provide email and state that email will be used for some communication

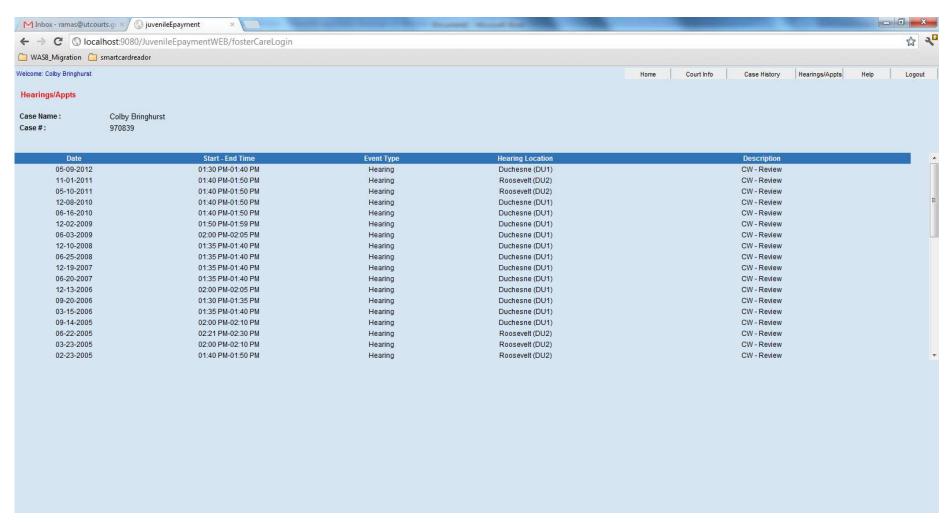
Website development

- Utilize current My Case functionality
- Validate using Care to SAFE interface.

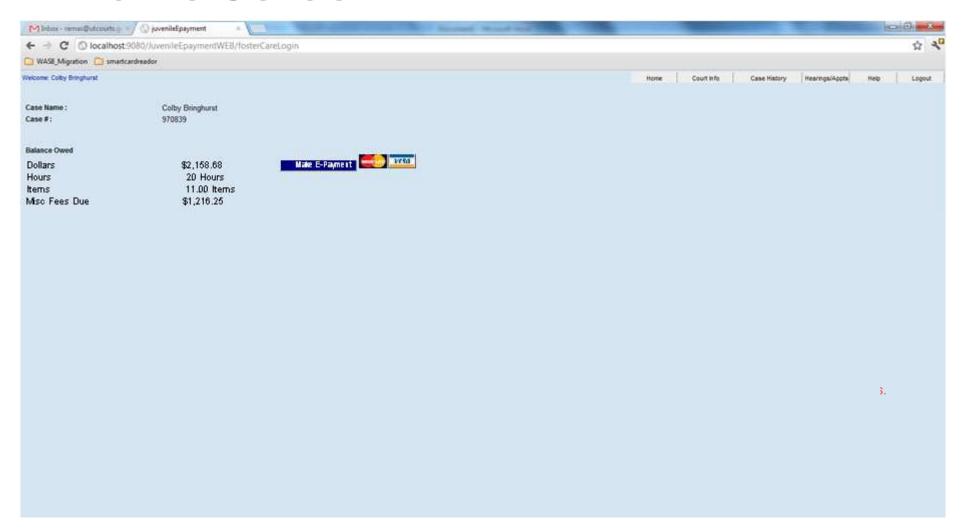
Login Screen



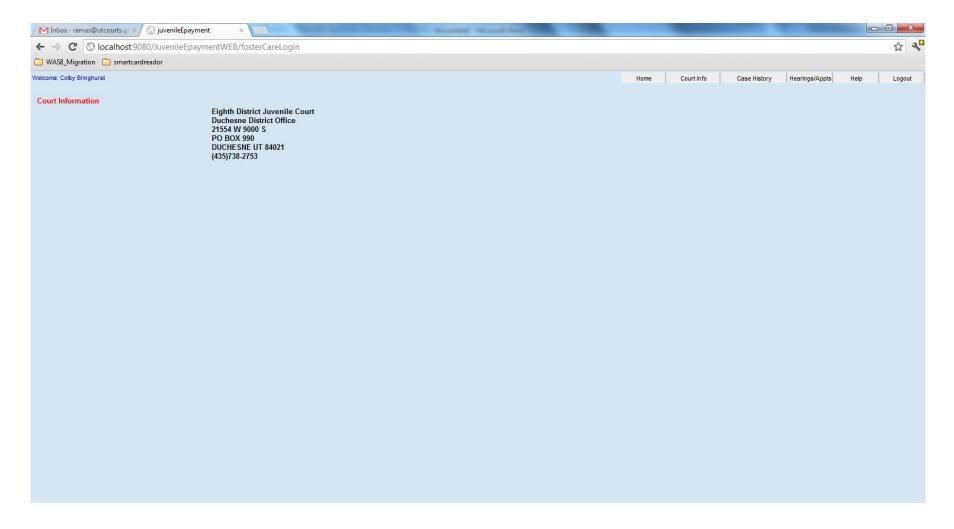
Hearing/Appointments



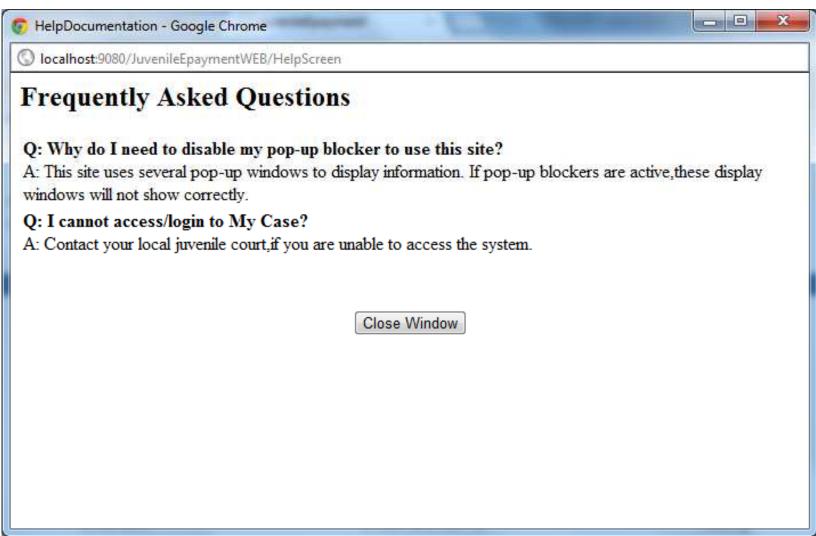
Home Screen -



Court Information



Help



How to give Foster Parent's a voice in court

• Suggest that a court process be established to address this concern.

The End

• Questions?