

# Baby Court



Supporting families with infants and toddlers involved with the child welfare system.

## Who's it for?

Baby Court aims to prioritize the needs of infants and toddlers in the child welfare system. Children 0-3 years old are overrepresented in foster care and tend to spend more time in care compared to older children. Babies are also less likely to be reunified with their biological families. Baby Court strives to reduce these disparities.



**Helping babies now will lead to a longer, healthier life later.**

**More information :**

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# WHAT'S INCLUDED?

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## A SPECIALIZED TEAM

A Baby Court team includes the foster care worker, the child's attorney, the parent's attorney, the family's IMH therapist, the Assistant Attorney General, and the Referee. All members of the team are trained in the importance of attachment relationships for infants and toddlers. They all actively collaborate to help the infant return safely to their biological parents.



## INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

Infant Mental Health therapists specialize in working with parents of very young children. They work with families in their homes for 2 hours per week. During that time, they offer supportive and therapeutic services to address whatever barriers may be impacting the attachment relationship between the parent and baby, such as trauma or developmental delays.



## EXTRA SUPPORT

Before each court hearing, there is a Family Team Meeting (FTM) aimed at recognizing the parents' progress and helping them find ways to overcome any barriers to reunification. Baby Court cases have court hearings scheduled every 4-6 weeks (instead of every 3 months) to discuss next steps for the family. These court hearings are warm and supportive.

For more information visit:



[WWW.DWIHN.ORG](http://WWW.DWIHN.ORG)