CHIPS PLEA OPTIONS

Admit / Admission

- You agree that the facts in the CHIPS petition are true
- You believe your child is in need protection or services
- You are giving up the right to a trial to the court or a jury
- The court will likely find your child is in need of protection or services (CHIPS) and place your child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court

No Contest

- You do not want to contest the CHIPS petition
- You do not agree or disagree with all of the facts of the CHIPS petition
- You believe that there are enough facts to support a CHIPS finding
- You do not want to have a trial to the court or a jury
- The court will likely find your child in need of protection or services (CHIPS) and place your child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court

Deny / Denial

- You do not agree with the facts in the CHIPS petition
- You want to contest the facts in the CHIPS petition
- You want to have a trial to the court or a 6-person jury
- If there is a trial, the county/state will have to prove the facts of the CHIPS petition by clear and convincing evidence
- A request for a jury trial must be made by the end of the plea hearing or this right is waived

Juvenile Court is Civil, not Criminal

CHIPS pleas are not the same as entering a guilty or not guilty plea in criminal court. Juvenile Court is civil court so there are different plea options.

Legal Advice

Your caseworker cannot tell you what plea to enter or provide legal advice.
You can hire your own attorney or ask the court to appoint an attorney for you.

All parties will enter a plea

At the Plea Hearing, these parties will be asked to enter a plea:

- Child through their Guardian ad Litem or Adversary Counsel
- Mother
- Father
- Legal Guardian
- Legal Custodian
- Indian Custodian

A CHIPS case can lead to a Termination of Parental Rights

Your rights

Plea Questionnaire Circuit Court form (JD-1735) fully explains your rights.

If you enter an Admit / Admission or No Contest plea, you would be giving up all of these rights:

- confront and cross-examine witnesses
- present and subpoena witnesses
- jury trial
- have the county/state prove the CHIPS petition allegations by clear and convincing evidence
- remain silent