

Policy regarding Custody, Visitation and Placement Hearings

Directions for Youth & Families (DFYF) has adopted a policy, guided by The Revised Code of the State of Ohio (ORC) and in accordance with the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) and rules of our supervising and licensing board, The Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist (CSWMFT) Board regarding participation in court hearings or trials involving clients or families of clients, past or present.

This policy is provided to parents and guardians in our Client and Guardian handbook (available to be viewed at <https://dfyf.org/wpcontent/uploads/Youth-CLIENT-GUARDIAN-HANDBOOK-Updated-2022.pdf>) and reads as follows:

“Directions For Youth and Families Mental Health Professionals do not participate in court hearings, trials or proceedings of Custody, Visitation, and placement of a client. The Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist (CSWMFT) Board Laws and Rules guide professional conduct in this matter. Professionals working in a clinical role with a family, when requested by a family member, lawyer, or Guardian Ad Litem to make a recommendation to custody, visitation, and/or guardianship are informed doing such is an ethics violation. As such, professionals working with families in a clinical role decline the role of expert witness and do not give professional opinion regarding custody, visitation and/or guardianship issues.”