

Cherokee Nation Code Annotated

Title 10A: Cherokee Nation Juvenile Code

Article 2

Chapter 2: Custody and Court Proceedings

§ 2-2-301. Conduct of interrogations--Appointment of counsel--Guardians ad litem

Cite as: 10A CNCA § 2-2-301

A. No information gained by a custodial interrogation of a youthful offender under sixteen (16) years of age or a child nor any evidence subsequently obtained as a result of such interrogation shall be admissible into evidence against the youthful offender or child unless the custodial interrogation about any alleged offense by any law enforcement officer or investigative agency, or employee of the court, or employee of the Department of Juvenile Justice is done in the presence of the parents, guardian, attorney, adult relative, adult caretaker, or legal custodian of the youthful offender or child. No such custodial interrogation shall commence until the youthful offender or child and the parents, guardian, attorney, adult relative, adult caretaker, or legal custodian of the youthful offender or child have been fully advised of the constitutional and legal rights of the youthful offender or child, including the right to be represented by counsel at every stage of the proceedings, and the right to have counsel appointed by the court if the parties are without sufficient financial means; provided, however, that no legal aid or other public or charitable legal service shall make claim for compensation as contemplated herein. It is further provided that where private counsel is appointed in such cases, the court shall set reasonable compensation and order the payment out of the court fund. As used in this section, "custodial interrogation" means questioning of a youthful offender under sixteen (16) years of age or child while that youthful offender or child is in law enforcement custody or while that youthful offender or child is being deprived of freedom of action in any significant way by a law enforcement officer, employee of the court, or employee of the Office. Custodial interrogation shall conform with all requirements for interrogation of adult criminal offenders. The term "custodial interrogation" shall not be deemed to mean questioning of a youthful offender or child by a public school administrator or teacher, so long as such questioning is not being conducted on behalf of a law enforcement officer, an employee of the court or an employee of the Office. Any information gained from noncustodial questioning of a child or youthful offender by a public school administrator or teacher concerning a wrongful act committed on public school property shall be admissible into evidence against the youthful offender or child.

B. A custodial interrogation of a youthful offender over sixteen (16) years of age shall conform with all the requirements for the interrogation of an adult.

C. If the youthful offender or child is not otherwise represented by counsel, whenever a petition is filed pursuant to the provisions of Section 2-2-104 or Section 2-5-201 et seq. of this title, the court shall appoint an attorney, who shall not be a Attorney General, for the youthful offender or child regardless of any attempted waiver by the parent or other legal custodian of the youthful offender or child of the right of the youthful offender or child to be represented by counsel. The youthful offender or child shall be represented by counsel at every hearing or review through completion or dismissal of the case. Counsel shall be appointed by the court only upon determination by the court that the parent, legal guardian or legal custodian is found to be indigent. If indigency is established, representation shall be provided to the child in accordance with the applicable standards practice. Provided, if the parent or legal guardian of a child is not indigent but refuses to employ counsel, the court shall appoint counsel to represent the child at detention hearings until counsel is provided. Costs of representation shall be imposed on the parent or other legal custodian. Thereafter, the court shall not appoint counsel for a child with a non-indigent parent or legal custodian and shall order the parent or legal custodian to obtain counsel. A parent or legal custodian of an indigent child who has been ordered to obtain counsel for the child and who willfully fails to follow the court order shall be found in indirect contempt of court.

D. Counsel for the child shall advise the child and advocate the expressed wishes of the child, as much as reasonably possible, under the same ethical obligations as if the client were an adult. Upon motion by the state, the child, the attorney for the child, or a parent or legal custodian of the child, the court shall appoint a guardian ad litem.

E. The guardian ad litem shall not be the Attorney General, an employee of the office of the Attorney General, an employee of the court, or an employee of any public agency having duties or responsibilities towards the child. The guardian ad litem shall be given access to the court file and access to all records and reports relevant to the case and to any records and reports of examination of the child's parent or other custodian, made pursuant to this section or Section 1-2-101 of this title. Provided, nothing in this subsection shall obligate counsel for the child to breach attorney-client confidentiality with the child.

Historical Data

LA 11-21, eff. March 15, 2021.