

What is a Dependent Child?

A dependent child is a person under 18 years old who is a ward of the juvenile court due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. Once you turn 18 you are legally an adult and are no longer a dependent child.

What is a Former Dependent Child?

A former dependent child means a child who was determined by the juvenile court to need protection and services and became a ward of the court. Once the court dismisses the case, you become a former dependent child. This can happen at any age – you do not have to be 18 before the court closes your case. Before dismissing the case, the court must tell you and your parents or guardian about SIX.

What is a Sibling?

A sibling is your brother or sister from the same biological parents or from a stepparent or adoptive parent. Under SIX, a sibling includes your stepbrothers and sisters and adoptive brothers and sisters.



Can I Choose To Have No Contact With My Siblings?

Yes, you may decide to have no contact with your siblings. You must sign a paper stating your desire to not be contacted. You may also change your mind at any time. If you later decide to have contact, you must state in writing that you know about your siblings, and wish to have contact with them.

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Published by Dependent Children's Services Division
Text provided under agreement by the
Honorable Thomas Jacobs



THE SIBLING INFORMATION EXCHANGE PROGRAM (SIX)

Questions and answers
on how former
dependent children can
stay in touch with their
siblings.

What is The Sibling Information Exchange Program? (SIX)

SIX provides an opportunity for former dependent children to stay in touch and exchange information with their siblings (brothers and sisters). It includes adopted children and those in foster care, group homes or residential treatment centers.



Who May Participate In SIX?

You may participate in SIX if you are one of the following:

- ✦ 18 or older and a former dependent child.
- ✦ 17 or under and a former dependent child. If under 18, your participation must include your adoptive parent, guardian or biological parent if he or she has legal custody of you and is not involved in a current juvenile court dependency case.
- ✦ Over 18 and you are the sibling of a former dependent child.



How Can I Begin The Process To Contact My Siblings?

The Arizona Supreme Court trains and certifies confidential intermediaries who have been authorized to access information and to assist you and your siblings if you wish to reestablish contact.

For more information you can contact the Arizona Supreme Court by:

- ✦ **PHONE** (602) 452-3957
- ✦ **EMAIL** cip@courts.az.gov
- ✦ **TEXT TELEPHONE** (TT) for the hearing impaired (602) 452-3545

Additional information about the SIBLING INFORMATION EXCHANGE PROGRAM can be found online at:

www.supreme.state.az.us/cip/

Is Information About Me Confidential?

Yes, all information about you in the dependency case and contact information after your case is dismissed is confidential. Only the court may release this information. The confidential intermediary may review your information but must keep all information confidential. It is only to be used to arrange contact between you and your siblings or for sharing information between siblings.

