



to parents or guardian. [V.T.C.A., Family Code §](#)

continued Appellant on SHOCAP probation and placed him in the Challenge boot camp program. The court later amended the probation order and placed Appellant in his

On March 20, 2003, the State filed a new petition alleging Appellant had engaged in delinquent conduct by committing burglary of a habitation, but based on a stipulation the State amended the petition to allege conduct other than burglary. The juvenile court entered an adjudication of delinquent conduct based on the stipulation. On April 9, 2003, the juvenile court held a disposition hearing and entered an order committing Appellant to the Texas Youth Commission. Appellant filed a timely notice of appeal.

#### SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

In his sole issue on appeal, Appellant complains that the court erred by conducting the adjudication and disposition hearings without a qualified sign language interpreter for N.V., the hearing-impaired mother, who attended both hearings. He alleges that the trial court

violated the due process and due course of law clauses of the federal and state constitutions because it effectively removed her from the hearings. He also argues that appointment of an interpreter is required by Article 38.31 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and Section 21.005 of the Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

<sup>[1]</sup> Appellant does not dispute that he interpreted for N.V.

Appellant appointed his own interpreter to the disposition hearing, but he argues that the juvenile court was nevertheless required to appoint a qualified interpreter for his mother. Courts have long recognized that in proceedings where child custody is to be adjudicated and parental rights affected, parents must be allowed a full hearing to present their claims. \*440 *In the Matter of Honsaker*, 539 S.W.2d 600 (Tex.Civ.App. 1976).

<sup>[1]</sup> (i.e.), citing *DeWitt v. Brooks*, 143 Tex. 122, 182 S.W.2d 691 (1944). Furthermore, it is a basic principle of the Juvenile Justice Code that every child who appears before the juvenile court must have the assistance of some friendly, competent adult who can supply the child with support and guidance. *In the Matter of J. S.*, 602 S.W.2d 585, 590 (Tex.Civ.App.-Amarillo 1980, no writ);

interpreter to interpret the  
proceedings in any language,