

DEPENDENCY COURT

An outline of the Juvenile Court Process

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

A referral alleging abuse/neglect is made

Close

Investigate

*Most often, children are brought to the attention of the court after being removed from their home by the police or a social worker due to an imminent risk of harm.

Child Stays Home Protective Custody

*Petition filed within <u>2 court</u> <u>days</u>

Petition Dismissed Informal Supervision 6-12 months

File Petition

*Detention next court day after petition

(within 3 days from

protective custody)

DETENTION HEARING

The court determines whether the child is to remain in protective custody pending the jurisdiction hearing or returned to the parent.

Detention Ordereed

JURISDICTION HEARING

(AKA Adjudication) The court decides if what the petition alleges is true based on the evidence

*Jurisdiction 15 days from order of detention

*Disposition
10 days from
Jurisdiction
if is child
detained

Allegations Sustained

*Jurisdiction
30 days
from filing
petition

DISPOSITION HEARING

The court decides what would best address the issues concerning the welfare of the child.

Child Returns Home (under supervision)

Reunification
Services Ordereed

6-MONTH REVIEW HEARING

(AKA .21e) The court reviews the reunification progress
of the parent(s)

Services
Terminated
If child is under 3
and no progress

Reunification Services Ordereed

12-MONTH PERMANENCY REVIEW

(AKA .21f) The court reviews the progress of the parent(s)

18-MONTH PERMANENCY REVIEW

(AKA .22) The court reviews the progress of the parent(s)

Services
Terminated
If child is 3+
and no progress

*Services can be extended 6 months from the 12 & 18 month hearing if the court finds a substantial probability the child will be returned and safely maintained in the home.

Services Terminated

SELECTION & IMPLEMENTATION (.26)

The court selects the permanent plan for the child
At the .26 hearing, parental rights may be terminated.

and the child may be referred for adoption