

THE LIFECYCLE OF A DEPENDENCY CASE

CPS ASSESSMENT

- ODHS becomes aware of a concern about a child's safety.
- CPS investigates the concern.
- Safety threats identified.
- ODHS works with the family to resolve issues and make the child safe (in other words, ODHS makes reasonable efforts to prevent the need for removal).
- ODHS must request a pick up order from the court before removing any child from their home.
- If the situation is an emergency, removal may happen without an order or services offered to the family first.

REMOVAL

"Removal" refers to the process of removing a child from their home and placing them in an out-of-home placement (foster care).

SHELTER HEARING

- Must occur within 24 hours of removal.
- ODHS goes to court, files a petition with allegations against the parents, and asks a judge to grant the agency permission to keep the child in out-of-home placement.

JURISDICTION AND DISPOSITION

- Note: In some counties, a preliminary hearing or settlement conference comes before this hearing.*
- At the jurisdictional hearing, ODHS argues that the parents cannot safely parent the child due to the allegations in the petition.
- If the court agrees that neither parent is able to safely care for the child, jurisdiction is established and ODHS is granted legal custody of the child.

CRB REVIEW

A CRB review is required 6 months after removal in all dependency cases.

REVIEW HEARING

Optional review hearings (called limited reviews, partial reviews or judicial reviews) may occur at any point after jurisdiction throughout the life of the case. Such hearings are simply held "as needed" and are not required by statute.

CRB REVIEW

Subsequent CRB reviews occur every 6 months throughout the life of the case, so the second CRB review usually occurs 12 months after removal (which is about 1-2 months before the first Permanency Hearing). Every dependency case must have a full review of some kind at least every 6 months; A full review can take place only at a CRB Review, a Permanency Hearing, or a Complete Review Hearing. Limited Review Hearings, Judicial Review Hearings, and other court proceedings do not meet this review requirement.

PERMANENCY HEARING

A permanency hearing is held 12 months after jurisdiction or 14 months after removal, whichever is earliest. A permanency hearing is the only hearing at which the permanency plan can be changed. A permanency hearing is held annually in every case throughout the life of the case.

After the first permanency hearing, the permanency plan remains Reunification, or changes to Adoption, Guardianship, PWFWR (Placement With a Fit and Willing Relative), or APPLA (Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement, which is permanent foster care). A full review at court or by the CRB must continue to occur every 6 months throughout the life of the case. Once the child has been in out-of-home placement for 15 of the last 22 months, ODHS must file a Termination of Parental Rights (TPR), unless certain exceptions apply.