Montana's Child Welfare Journey

CPS is informed of potential child abuse or neglect and conduct an investigation in the family's home

Safety threat not identified

Case closed, family may be referred to additional services

- or -

Safety threat identified

Case Opened

Legal intervention

- or -

Prevention Plans

Depending on circumstances a child may be removed or may remain in their home

Reasonable or Active Efforts

Intense remedial and rehabilitative services to support the family, or reunify a child who has been removed from the home.

May consist of wraparound services, healthy relationship planning, or referral to other appropriate resources

Concurrent planning for permanency must occur during the hearing and reasonable/ active efforts process

Hearing Process

1. Pre-Hearing Conferences and Emergency Services Hearing may or may not occur
2. Show-Cause Hearing: Occurs within 20 days
3. Jurisdictional Hearing/ Adjudication
4. Disposition/ Placement Hearing
5. Review/Status Hearing
6. Permanency Hearing
7. Termination Hearing

The hearing process varies depending on the individual case and court procedures.

Steps 2-5 may happen on the same date, or separate hearing dates may be set.

Placement preferences apply

- or -

Develop plan for reunification

Child returns home

Permanency Achieved

It is CPS's goal for each child to have permanency within 2 years in the system.

MONTANA DPHHS Healthy People. Healthy Communities. Department of Public Health & Human Services

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA | CENTER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT