

Removal

•**Emergency Protective Services Hearing:** This hearing is designed to address the question of whether a child can return home pending the next hearing. The Court will also address visitation, placement, and services. If requested, it must be held within 5 business days of removal. This hearing will become mandatory in all cases in July 2023.

•**Show Cause:** This hearing must be held within 20 days of removal. The Court will address the removal of the child as well as whether CFS made sufficient efforts to prevent the removal of the child or make it possible for the child to return home safely. If the case involves an Indian child, a qualified expert witness is required to testify whether continued custody of the child by the parent or Indian custodian is likely to result in serious emotional or physical damage to the child.

•**Adjudication Hearing:** This hearing is equivalent to the "trial" phase. The Court will determine whether the facts support a finding that a child is a "youth in need of care." A parent may stipulate (agree that the state could meet its burden of proof) or contest (have a trial). This hearing typically occurs within 20 days. Statements from the affected child are admissible.

•**Disposition:** This hearing, which may be combined with the Adjudication hearing, is where the Court decides how the case will proceed. This can include, but is not limited to, a grant of temporary legal custody (TLC) to the Department for 6 months, placement of the child with the noncustodial parent and dismissal, or TLC to a nonparent relative. Hearsay is admissible at this hearing.

•**Treatment Plan Hearing:** The treatment plan is a list of tasks required by CFS. The tasks must be appropriate and narrowly tailored to the reasons CFS is involved with the family. Tasks might include substance use disorder treatment, parenting classes, or mental health services.

In Home Safety Plans

•**Extension/Review Hearing:** If a Court grants CFS temporary legal custody, a hearing must be held after 6 months to determine whether a parent needs additional time to complete a treatment plan. Children may return to the parent's care if there are sufficient safety measures in place.

Permanency

•**Permanency Plan Hearing:** This type of hearing is required once a year. The Department will outline at least two concurrent plans for permanency for the child. Typically, the first plan is for reunification with a parent. Concurrent plans may be guardianship or adoption.