

The Dependency Process

The following MUST happen:

DCS Takes Custody

DCS Files Petition
72 hours

Pre-Hearing Conference /
Preliminary Protective Hearing
(5-7 business days after removal)

Status/
Adjudication
(30 days)

Disposition

Dependency Review
(every 3-4 months)

Permanency Hearing
(6 months if there is a child under 3.
12 months if child is 3 and over)

Initial Severance Hearing
(30 days after Permanency Hearing)

Severance Hearing/Trial

Adoption Hearing

Child Returns Home

Guardianship
(30 day of permanency hearing)

Long-Term Foster Care or Independent Living

The following MAY happen:

Initial Dependency Hearing
(21 days after removal)

Facilitated Settlement Conference (Mediation)

Contested Dependency Trial
(within 90 days after removal)

Reunification at Risk Mediation

Facilitated Case Conference (Mediation)

