



# DEPENDENCY COURT TIMELINE & PROCESS

## 1 PETITION

CPS believes that your child is in danger of abuse or neglect; they get a warrant to take your child ("removal") usually served with police. They then have to file a petition with the court which lists all the charges against you, which are called "allegations."



## 2 DETENTION

Three court days after your child is removed, there must be a "detention" hearing in juvenile dependency court where you are given the petition and the report detailing the initial evidence against you. This is an emergency hearing where the Judge is deciding whether or not your child can stay with you.



## 3 JURISDICTION & DISPOSITION

Jurisdiction: court decides if petition is true

Disposition: court decides case goal and where child(ren) will be placed; orders a case plan with visitation schedule if child out of home.



## 4 REVIEW HEARINGS

Family works towards reunification and/or case dismissal by following case plan with hearing every 6 months. If your child is removed from you, you only have a short time to prove that you have fixed the issues that led to removal. Minimum is 6 months and maximum (very rare) is 24 months since child entered foster care.



## 5 PERMANENCY

After reunification period ends, return to you is no longer considered absent you filing a new motion. The outcomes in order of legal preference are:

- Adoption (Needs Termination Parental Rights)
- Tribal Customary Adoption
- Legal guardianship
- Continued foster care

