

Dependency Hearing Overview

Hearing	Time Period	Purpose
Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC)	5-7 days after removal	A court appointed facilitator leads parties in a discussion aimed at resolving issues in a non-adversarial manner concerning custody, placement, visitation and services for the child and family.
Preliminary Protective Hearing (PPH)	5-7 days after removal	The court determines whether continued temporary custody of the child is necessary and enters appropriate orders as to custody, placement, visitation and the services for the child and family.
Review of Temporary Custody (RTC)	At PPH	If requested by the parent, guardian or Indian custodian at the preliminary protective hearing, the court conducts this hearing to determine whether removal of the child was necessary and whether the child should remain in out-of-home placement.
Initial Dependency Hearing (IDH)	21 days from service of petition (may occur as early as PPH)	The court determines whether service has been completed and whether the parent, guardian or Indian custodian admits, denies or does not contest the allegations contained in the dependency petition.
Settlement Conference (SET) or Mediation	Prior to contested Adjudication Hearing	The parties meet with the court (for mediation, with a mediator) to identify and resolve issues in a non-adversarial manner. Counsel shall meet with their clients prior to the conference or mediation.
Pre Trial Conference (PTC)	Prior to contested Adjudication Hearing	The court determines whether the parties are prepared and intend to proceed to trial or whether resolution of remaining issues in a non-adversarial manner is possible.
Dependency Adjudication Hearing (ADJ)	90 days from service of the petition (may occur as early as PPH/IDH)	The court determines whether the petitioner has met the burden of proving the child dependent.
Disposition Hearing (DIS)	30 days from ADJ (may occur at ADJ)	The court determines the appropriate placement of a child who has been adjudicated dependent and reviews the permanent case plan established for the child.
Periodic Review Hearing (REV)	6 months from DIS and every 6 months until dependency dismissed	The court reviews the progress of the parties in achieving the case plan goals and determines whether the child continues to be dependent.

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Permanency Hearing (PER)	12 months from removal (or, if the child is less than 3 years of age, within six months of removal)	The court determines the future permanent legal status for the child and enters such orders as may be necessary to accomplish the permanency plan within a specific time frame.
Initial Guardianship Hearing (IGU)	30 days from PER	The court determines whether service has been completed, whether notice of the hearing has been provided to those persons identified pursuant to Rule 61(B) and the parent or Indian custodian and the child's tribe, and whether the parent, guardian or Indian custodian admits, denies or does not contest the allegations contained in the motion for guardianship.
Guardianship Adjudication Hearing (GUA)	90 days from PER (may occur as early as IGU)	The court determines whether the prospective guardian is a fit and proper person to become the permanent guardian of the child and whether guardianship is in the best interests of the child.
Initial Termination Hearing (ITE)	30 days from PER	The court determines whether service has been completed and whether the parent, guardian or Indian custodian admits, denies or does not contest the allegations contained in the motion or petition for termination of parental rights.
Termination Hearing (TER)	90 days from PER (may occur as early as ITE)	The court determines whether the moving party or petitioner has met the burden of proving grounds upon which to terminate parental rights and whether termination is in the best interests of the child.