

**CASE PROCESSING STANDARDS ANALYSIS  
JUVENILE - NEGLECT AND ABUSE**

**National Center for State Courts Model Time Standards:**

Adjudication Hearing: 98% within 90 days of removal

Permanency Hearing: 75% within 270 days of removal  
98% within 360 days of removal

**Measurement:** Date of removal through adjudication.

**Arizona Juvenile – Neglect and Abuse Adjudication Hearings**

The following standards have been adopted for Juvenile Neglect and Abuse Adjudication Hearings:

**98% within 100 days of filing**

**Measurement:** Date of filing through a finding of dependency.

**Excluded Time:** No excluded time.

**Arizona Juvenile – Neglect and Abuse Permanency Hearings**

The following standards have been adopted for Juvenile Neglect and Abuse Permanency Hearings:

**98% of children under 3 years of age within 180 days of removal**

**98% of all other cases within 365 days of removal**

**Measurement:** Date of removal through permanent plan determination.

**Excluded Time:** No excluded time.

Arizona Rules and Statutes	Timelines under Statute and Rule
<b>Petition Filed:</b> ARS <sup>1</sup> § 8-823(A) and (B)(6)  ARS § 8-824(A) Rule 332, ARJP <sup>2</sup>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>(Measurement Starts Here)</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Petition filed 72 hours from removal:</u></b> If a child is taken into temporary custody, a written notice must be provided within <b>6 hours</b> to the parent or guardian that the child must be returned within <b>72 hours</b>, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, unless a dependency petition is filed.</p> <p><b><u>Preliminary Protective Hearing:</u></b> The court must hold a preliminary protective hearing to review the taking into temporary custody of a child pursuant to section ARS § 8-821 <b>5 to 7 days</b> after the child is taken into custody, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. If clearly necessary to prevent abuse or neglect, to preserve the rights of a party, or for other good cause shown, the court may grant one continuance that does not exceed <b>5 days</b>.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Arizona Revised Statutes

<sup>2</sup> Arizona Rules of Procedure for the Juvenile Court

Arizona Rules and Statutes	Timelines under Statute and Rule
<p>ARS § 8-842(A) Rule 334, ARJP</p> <p>ARS § 8-844(A) Rule 336 and 337, ARJP</p>	<p><b><u>Initial Dependency Hearing:</u></b> At the initial dependency hearing, the court must determine 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. Except as provided in ARS § 8-826, the court must set the initial dependency hearing within <b>21 days</b> after the petition is filed.</p> <p><b><u>Settlement or Pretrial Conference or Mediation:</u></b> Before a contested dependency case proceeds to adjudication, the court must hold a settlement conference or pretrial conference or order mediation. All of the parties in the contested action must participate in the conference or mediation. A settlement conference may also be held for the purpose of identifying and resolving issues in a non-adversarial manner. At least <b>5 days</b> prior to the settlement conference, each party shall provide the court with a confidential settlement conference memorandum. If settlement is not reached, a pretrial conference may be held prior to the dependency adjudication hearing to determine whether the parties are prepared and intend to proceed to trial or whether resolution of remaining issues in a non-adversarial manner is possible and to address any issues raised by the parties.</p>
<p><b>Adjudication Hearing:</b> ARS § 8-842(C) Rule 338(b), ARJP</p> <p>Rule 339(b) ARJP</p>	<p><b>Adjudication Hearing:</b> The court may continue the initial dependency hearing for good cause, but, unless the court has ordered in-home intervention, the dependency adjudication hearing must be completed within <b>90 days</b> after service of the dependency petition. The time limit for completing the dependency adjudication hearing may be extended for up to <b>30 days</b> if it is necessary for the full, fair, and proper presentation of evidence and the child's best interests would not be adversely affected.</p> <p><b>Disposition Hearing:</b> The disposition hearing must be held within <b>30 days</b> of the dependency adjudication hearing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(Measurement Stops Here for Adjudication Hearing)</b></p>
<p><b>Permanency Hearing:</b> ARS § 8-862(A) Rule 343(b), ARJP</p>	<p><b><u>Permanency Hearing:</u></b> The court must hold a permanency hearing to determine the future permanent legal status of the child:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Within <b>30 days</b> after the disposition hearing if the court does not order reunification services.</li> <li>2. Within <b>6 months</b> after a child who is under three years of age is removed from the child's home. The court cannot continue the permanency hearing beyond <b>6 months</b> after the child is removed from the child's home unless the party who is seeking the continuance shows that the determination prescribed in section 8-829(A)(6) has been made or will be made within the time prescribed in that paragraph.</li> </ol>

<b>Arizona Rules and Statutes</b>	<b>Timelines under Statute and Rule</b>
	<p>3. In all other cases, within <b>12 months</b> after the child is removed from the child's home. The court cannot continue the permanency hearing beyond <b>12 months</b> after the child is removed from the child's home unless the party who is seeking the continuance shows that the determination prescribed in section 8-829(A)(5) has been made or will be made within the time prescribed in that paragraph.</p> <p><b>(Measurement Stops Here for Permanency Hearing)</b></p>