

Hypothetical Case Scenarios

Discussion #1

The setting: Preliminary Protective Hearing

The facts:

DCS removed three children from Mother's care after receiving a removal order from the Superior Court. DCS's application sought removal based on the following alleged facts: Mother was arrested for possession of fentanyl and taken to jail as part of a raid on a known drug house. Mother appeared to be under the influence when arrested. She was released from jail on pretrial services (no bond). The children (ages 3, 5 and 10) were found alone in a nearby vehicle that they appeared to be living in. Father is in prison, with a 2024 release date. He has had no contact with the children since he entered prison in early 2021. Mother and the children had been living off and on with Maternal Grandmother but were recently kicked out because of Mother's drug use and domestic violence committed against Mother by her boyfriend. The 5-year-old was born substance exposed (methamphetamine) and she and the 10-year-old were the subject of a previous dependency. The previous dependency was dismissed after Mother completed a drug treatment program and tested negative for 6 consecutive months. Mother is not currently employed and has been in a homeless shelter since her release from jail.

The children reportedly have not recently attended school. The 3-year-old child is non-verbal and appears developmentally delayed. The 10-year-old child has significant dental issues. The children have been placed with Maternal Grandmother.

Hypothetical Case Scenarios

Discussion #2

The setting: Disposition (the same facts below could apply to Report and Review/Permanency Hearings)

The facts/case status:

At the dependency adjudication, both Mother and Father chose not to contest the dependency and court found the children were dependent as to both parents. Case now proceeds to disposition. Case plan is family reunification.

Children still placed with Maternal Grandmother. Older two children have been enrolled in school, younger child in daycare.

Father has participated telephonically from prison and states he wants to see his children and wants to retain his parental rights. Has not visited with children despite his requests because Maternal Grandmother not interested in supporting visits with Father and DCS has not facilitated a visit. He asks for services while he is in prison.

Mother attended both hearings that followed the PPH. She verbalizes that she wants her children back and believes she can safely care for them. She was provided Family Connections, Arizona Families FIRST, Substance Abuse Testing and Supervised Visitation at the Preliminary Protective Hearing. Her participation has been mixed. Mother did not get visits for 30 days after the PPH because of a waitlist for Supervised Visitation Services. Missed 2 of the 10 weekly meetings with the FC consultant. Has not obtained employment or found a stable living situation. Participated in AFF assessment which recommended a drug treatment but has not engaged in treatment. Has missed half of her drug tests. Tested positive for methamphetamine two weeks after the PPH but has been negative since. Has attended 4 of 6 visits with the children. Visits go well and children express that they want to be with her.