Dependency Caseflow

Case Initiation

Child removed from home → Petition Filed *within 72 hours of removal* → Preliminary Protective Hearing (PPH) & Initial Dependency Hearing (IDH) *PPH within 5 to 7 business days of removal, IDH within 21 days of petition filing*

- Publication *whereabouts unknown* → Publication Hearing *75 days from petition filing*
- Cont. IDH *service needed*
- No Contest/ Default → Dependency Finding → Dependency Disposition *same day as depending findings*
- Denial

On-Going

Mediation or Settlement Conference Pre-Trial Conference → Dependency Adjudication & Findings *within 90 days of service of petition* → Dependency Disposition *typically same day as depending findings or within 30 days of adjudication* → Report & Review *every 3 to 6 months after dependency findings made* → Permanency Hearing

6 months after petition filing for children under 3
12 months after petition filing for children 3+

**Every review hearing after a permanency hearing may be designated a permanency hearing per ARPJC 342(D)(d)*
***Reasonable efforts finding made within 1 year of coming into care and every year after*

Dependency Adjudication Continuance Findings
+0-30 days--best interest of child & ext necessary for full presentation of evidence
+31-60 days--extraordinary circumstances
61+ days--substantial evidence add'l time in child's best interest

Permanency

Permanency Decision

- Family Reunification/ Remain with Family → Reunification Granted → Report & Reviews to monitor transition & explore Family Court orders → Case Dismissed
- Independent Living → Report & Review *every 6 months until age 18* → Plan for Extended Foster Care/ Independent Living → Case Dismissed
- Title 8 Permanent Guardianship → Motion Filed *10 days after perm hearing* → Initial Hearing *within 30 days of perm hearing* → Adjudication *within 90 days of perm hearing*
  - → Guardianship Granted → Case Dismissed
  - → Report & Review *every 6 months until adoption* → Adoption Granted → Case Dismissed
- Severance & Adoption → Motion Filed

Severance/Guardianship Adjudication Continuance Findings
+0-30 days--best interest of child & ext necessary for full presentation of evidence
+31-60 days--extraordinary circumstances
61+ days--substantial evidence add'l time in child's best interest