

Dependency Court Hearing Key

Court Hearing	Purpose	Timeframe	Standard of Proof
Shelter 39.402	To establish probable cause that reasonable grounds for removal exist and the provision of appropriate and available services will not eliminate the need for placement. 39.402(8)(d)1	Held within 24 hours of removal. 39.402(8)(a)	Probable Cause 39.402(1)
Arraignment 39.506	To provide parents or legal custodian with the opportunity to admit, deny, or consent to findings of dependency alleged in the petition. 39.506(1)	No later than 28 days after the shelter hearing, or within 7 days after the date of filing the dependency petition if a demand for early filing has been made by any party 39.506(1)	N/A
Adjudicatory 39.507	To decide a state of dependency of the child. 39.507(1)(b)	As soon as practicable after dependency petition is filed, but no later than 30 days after the arraignment. 39.507(1)	Preponderance of Evidence 39.507(1)(b)
Disposition 39.506 39.507 39.521	To review and approve a predisposition study and case plan. To decide how to best remedy a family's problems and reach permanence for the child. 39.521(1)(a)	Within 15 days after arraignment, if parent or legal custodian admits or consents. 39.506(1) Within 30 days after conclusion of the adjudicatory hearing, if parent or legal custodian denies. 39.507(8)	N/A
Judicial Reviews 39.701	To review the child's status and the parents' progress towards the goal, objectives, and tasks of the case plan 39.701 To assess progress towards establishing permanency for the child. To ensure youth's aftercare support or SIJS	No later than 90 days after disposition or approval of the case plan 39.521(1)(c); No later than 6 months after removal and every 6 months thereafter. 39.701(3)(a); No later than 6 months after date of removal to review the child's permanency goal. 39.701(10)(e); Within 90 days after child's 17 th birthday. 39.701(7)(a)	N/A
Permanency 39.621	To decide when the child will achieve the permanency goal or if modifying the current goal is in the best interest of the child. 39.621(1)	No later than 12 months after removal or no later than 30 days after court establishes that no reasonable efforts are required, whichever comes first. Must be held every 12 months for any child under supervision or awaiting adoption. 39.621(1)	N/A
TPR Advisory 39.808	To inform parties of their rights, to appoint counsel for the parties, and to appoint a guardian ad litem if not already appointed. 39.808(2)	As soon as possible after all parties are served with a copy of the petition and a notice of the date, time, and location of the advisory hearing. 39.808(1)	N/A
TPR Adjudicatory 39.809	To consider the elements required for termination of parental rights. 39.809(1)	Within 45 days after the TPR advisory hearing. 39.809(2)	Clear and Convincing Evidence 39.809(1)