

Checklist for Temporary Custody Hearings

Information from DCFS:

- Has the DCFS prepared and filed and/or provided to the State the following:
 - The Reasonable Efforts Affidavit
 - The Diligent Search Affidavit
 - Has DCFS provided a chronology of events, beginning from the intact case (if applicable) to the reasons the child was taken from the caregiver, that includes specific dates and names of witnesses?
 - How old is the child? What is the child's known trauma history? Are there any known diagnosis or past medical/psychiatric treatments?
 - Was there a prior intact case? Why was the case opened and assigned an intact worker? What services were provided? Why were these services not effective?
 - Was there a prior safety plan? What were the terms of the safety plan? Why wasn't the safety plan effective?
 - Did DCFS contact the police? (if the allegations rise to the level of a criminal offense)
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Prior or pending reports or criminal cases

- Are there any other cases, pending or closed, which are relevant to the minors or respondents (i.e.: prior JA, J or probate cases; prior JD cases of the minor; prior criminal cases of the respondents which are related to their ability to parent the minor; divorce cases involving custody determinations)
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Father or non-custodial parent

- Has the non-custodial parent been involved in the minor's life? (paid child support?; had visitation?; been incarcerated during the child's life?;

abused/neglected the minor child?; prior indicated reports of abuse/neglect on this minor or other minors?)

- How was the non-custodial parent notified of the hearing? (diligent search questions)
- Has paternity been established in another court proceeding (family or child support case?)
- Whose name is on the birth certificate?
- Was the mother married at the time of the birth of the child? If so, to whom was she married?

Allegations in the Petition:

- Does the petition include the name and address of both parents?
- Does the petition contain specific allegations against the mother and father?

Placement and care of the minor

- With whom is the child placed? Is it a relative or traditional foster placement? Has the relative placement passed background checks? (CANTS, LEADS, SACWIS); What relationship to the child is the relative placement? Does the child know the relative? Have the parents been consulted about possible relatives for placement? Will the child remain in the same school district?
- Were all siblings placed together? If not, has the Department demonstrated that placement would be contrary to the safety or wellbeing of any sibling? IF not, what efforts have been made to place the siblings together?
- Does the child have a sibling that is with a parent or relative and, if so, has that parent or relative been contacted to determine whether he/she is a viable placement
- Have foster parents been provided with information about trauma, childcare and medical care for the child? Does the foster parent have the necessary knowledge and skill to parent the specific child?

- Did the investigator observe the child in the placement?
 - Is the minor currently on medication? If so, does the minor have enough meds and do the foster parents know how to administer the meds?
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Orders for parents and DCFS

- Is there an IA? What are the recommendations?
- Given what is known thus far, what should the parents be ordered to accomplish in the next 14 days?
- Should the minor be screened for developmental delays?
- Should the minor be screened for trauma and/or referred to counseling?
- Should DCFS be ordered to provide extra supports to foster parents for the care of the minor? (trauma training, resources for medical and dental care?)