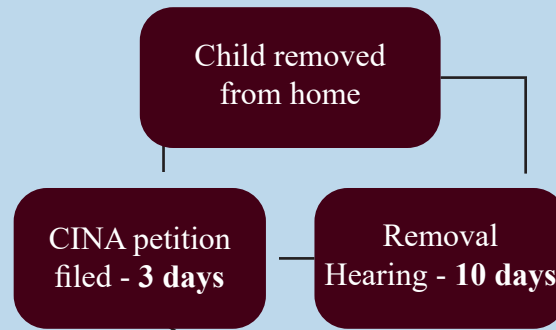


Children in Need of Assistance (CINA) Flowchart

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) may request you consent to removal of your child from the home or may obtain an emergency order from the judge removing the child without your presence (ex parte).



If your child is removed without your consent, then a removal hearing must occur within **10 days**. At the removal hearing the judge will determine whether your child may return to your home. An attorney should be appointed to represent you at this hearing. You will have the opportunity to present evidence.

A child in need of assistance (CINA) petition is a court filing that states the reasons why DHHS thinks your child is in need of the supervision of the juvenile court. If an emergency removal order was entered then the petition must be filed within **3 days**.

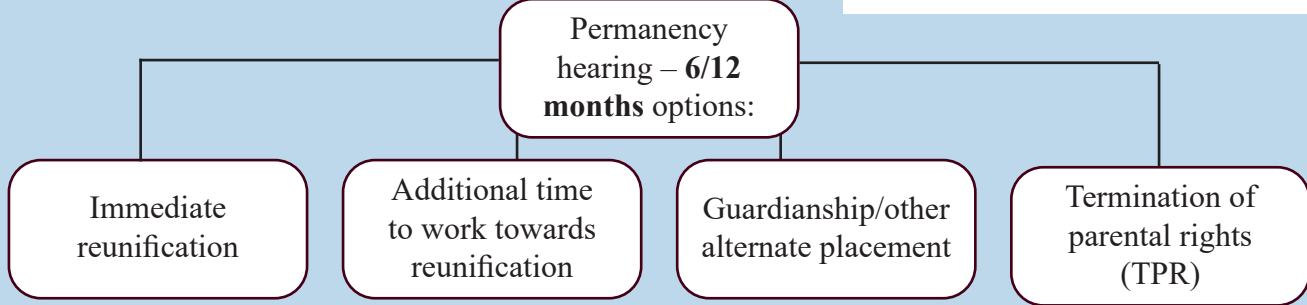


After the CINA petition is filed an adjudication hearing is held within **60 days**. An attorney should be appointed to you prior to this hearing and remain appointed to you for the life of the case. At the hearing, the juvenile court will determine whether your child is a child in need of assistance. You will have the opportunity to present evidence.

The disposition hearing will occur after the adjudication hearing. At this hearing, the judge will determine what needs to be done for the child to return home and for the case to safely close. Think of family or friends that may be able to take care of your child. You can ask the court to place your child with them.

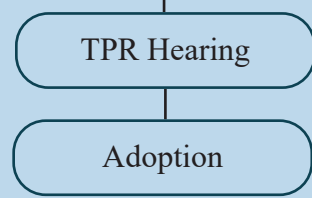


A review hearing will be held at least every 6 months. At these hearings the judge will determine if services and recommendations are being followed, whether additional services are needed, and whether the child's current placement is appropriate. If you feel different or more services would help you, you need to ask for those services at this hearing. Your attorney can help with that.



From the date of removal, a permanency hearing must occur within **6 months** if your child is under 4 years old, and **12 months** if your child is 4 or older. At this hearing, the judge will determine whether reunification should remain the goal or whether another goal is more appropriate.

If the judge changes the goal to termination of parental rights (TPR) that does not mean your rights have been terminated. It means that a TPR proceeding will begin and a hearing will be held to determine if your rights should be terminated. Keep participating in services and visits.



* You may appeal any final judgment such as the disposition order or order terminating your parental rights. The appeal must be filed within **15 days** of the order. *