

This brochure explains CHIPS cases for parents but may not include everything that could happen in court.

This information is NOT legal advice and does NOT replace speaking to an attorney.

If you would like an attorney, you can:

- hire your own attorney or
- ask the court to appoint an attorney for you. *You will be required to repay the county for the attorney's fees.

Parents: it is important to understand this information so that everyone can work together to ensure children are safe.

Terminating the CHIPS Case

A CHIPS case will end when the Dispositional Order expires. If the child is safe and the family and child no longer need services, the county may request to close the CHIPS case early.

Case Closure Hearing

If the child is placed in the home with a parent, the county may ask the Court to issue a case closure order.

A **case closure order** closes the CHIPS case and modifies an existing family court order involving the child at the same time.

The Court will hold a hearing to decide whether to change the family court order. The Court will consider the wishes of the parents, the child's age and development, the child's educational needs, the ability of the parents to communicate, and the child's adjustment to the home, and if changing the family court order is in the child's best interest.

If a case closure order is granted, the CHIPS case will close and the family court order involving the child will be changed at the same time.

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHIPS CASES AFTER DISPOSITION

A Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) case is filed when there is a concern that a child is not receiving proper care or protection.

A CHIPS case is **NOT** a criminal case, it is a civil case.

The juvenile court is focused on making sure children are safe.

Dispositional Hearing

Before the Dispositional Hearing, the social worker will talk/meet with you to create a Dispositional Court Report. This report includes family history, information about why the court needs to be involved, and proposed conditions and services for you to complete.

At the Dispositional Hearing, the judge will place your child in-home or out-of-home. If your child is placed out-of-the home, the court will order Conditions for Return that will explain what you need to do to have your child returned to your home.

Conditions for return or supervision may include:

- Participate in counseling
- Cooperate with DSS Supervision
- Participate in Educational programs
- Complete Alcohol and Drug Treatment
 - Submit to drug tests to ensure you are not using drugs or alcohol
- Complete parenting classes and apply what you have learned when parenting your child
- Visit with your child

Permanency Hearing

If your child is placed out-of-the home, the Court is required to review the case every six months at a Permanency Hearing.

A **Permanency Plan** is a report created by the social worker that updates the Court about your family, the progress you have made towards meeting the Conditions for Return, and the progress that has been made towards meeting one or more Permanency Goals.

A **Permanency Goal** is a goal that everyone involved in the case is working towards. Permanency Goals can include reunification with a parent, guardianship, adoption, or other possible ways to find a permanent place for the child to live and receive care. Sometimes there are two goals that are being worked on at the same time.

It is important that you attend the permanency hearing, as the judge will want to talk to you directly about the progress you have made over the past six months. The judge will also want to hear from your child or the child's guardian ad litem/ attorney about how their placement is and generally how he or she has been doing over the past six months.

Extension Hearing

The county may request to extend the CHIPS dispositional order if there are certain reasons that the social worker needs to stay involved with your family.

A hearing will be held for the court to decide whether to extend the order and for how long the order should be extended.

Revision Hearing

The county may request to revise the Conditions for Return in the Dispositional Order. A hearing will be held for the court to decide whether to change the conditions to help the child achieve permanency.

Change in Placement

If your child's placement is changed, you will receive notice.

- In-home to Out-of-home – a hearing will be held within 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays.
- Out-of-home to out-of-home – there is no hearing held unless an objection is filed with the court.
- Out-of-home to In-Home – there is no hearing held unless an objection is filed with the court.