

Child Protection Services Pro Se Help Kit Video Series

#3 – Minnesota CPS 101 Timeline



- Hello, I'm Dwight Mitchell the founder of Family
 Preservation Foundation. Welcome to our Child Protection
 Services Pro Se Help Kit video series.
- I hope you enjoy the content and it allows you to better understand your rights and options while involved with CPS.



After a 22-month battle, I successfully defeated Dakota County Social Services in Minnesota State court and had my children returned. Although filled with anguish, it was an education to say the least, and I will be passing on the benefit of my knowledge, and "Lessons Learned", while cross referencing Minnesota State Statutes, and case law which is readily available on Google Scholar.



I would like to advise you that I am not an attorney, licensed to practice law, nor am I providing legal services. I recommend you obtain your own attorney if possible and review my video in this series titled "Working with your Attorney". This is a very important unit in our series, and will assist you in not being misguide like I was, by my attorney's legal strategy, incompetence and/or greed.



This video series is for education purposes only. I will go over the beginning, middle and the end of the CPS process and what you can do in your defense and fight against CPS! This will be hard work for you, and a lot of reading, but nothing worthwhile in life is free. The Minnesota templates I provide are examples only and must not be used as is.



- Purpose and overview of the 12-month timeline
- Calculating the 12 months
- Key events along the timeline
- Legally permissible options for extending timeline beyond
 12 months

PURPOSE OF THE 12-MONTH TIMELINE



- 1997 Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA)
 - Set 12-month permanency timeline to ensure courts did not allow children to linger in foster care one day more than necessary
- Trauma and ongoing instability can lead to unhealthy development, often times leading to delinquent and criminal acts

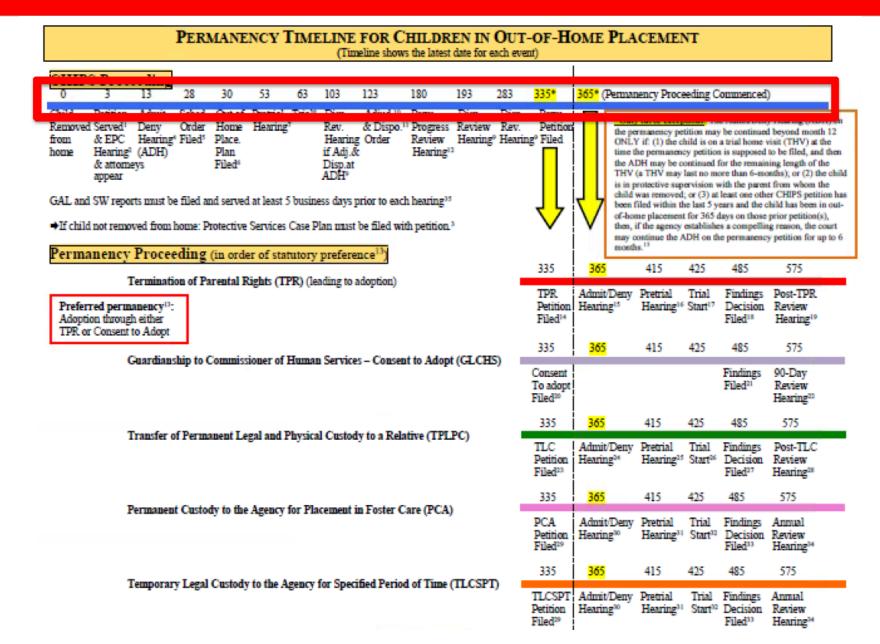


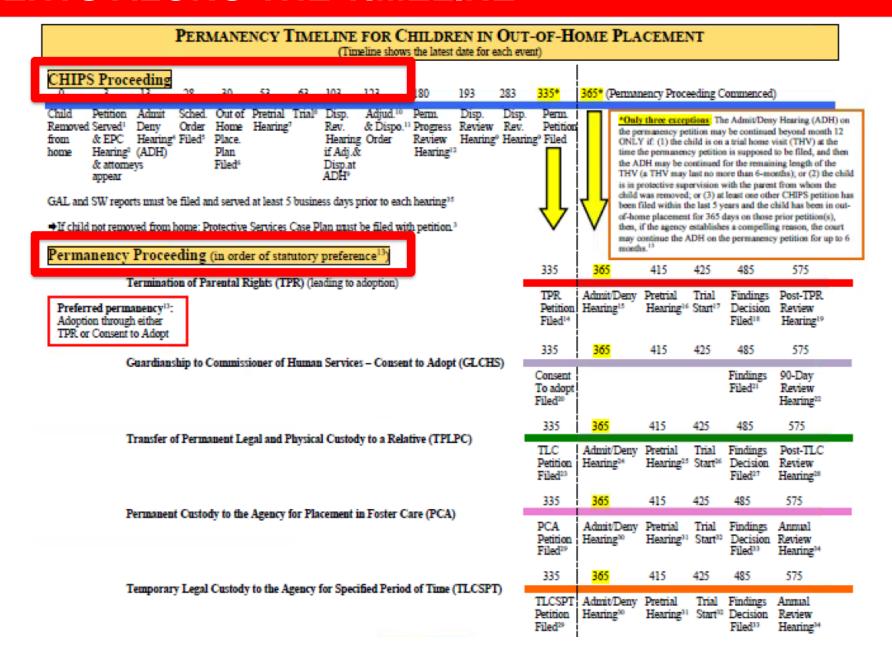
12-month timeline starts on date of child's placement, which is earlier of:

- First court-ordered placement with nonresident parent or in foster care
 - Includes order for immediate custody (ex parte emergency protective care)
- 60 days after date child placed in voluntary foster care



- What counts toward the 12 months:
 - All days in protective supervision with nonresident parent
 - All days in home of non-resident parent or foster care
 - All days in trial home visit
 - All days in court-ordered foster care or home of nonresident parent in last 5 years if prior petition(s) cumulative start counting where last days ended





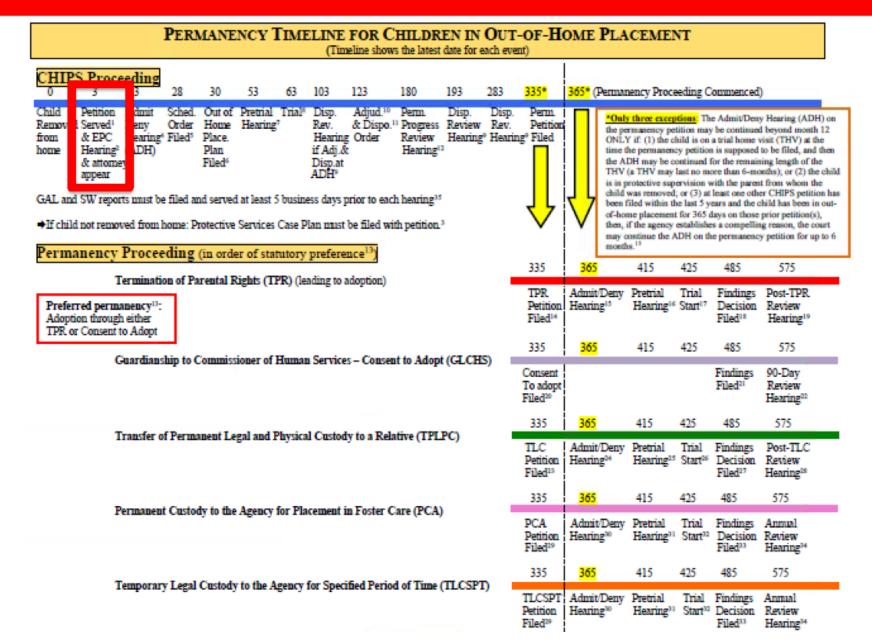
PERMANENCY TIMELINE FOR CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT (Timeline shows the latest date for each event) CHIPS Proceeding 283 (Permanency Proceeding Commenced) Petition Admit Out of Pretrial Trial* Disp. Disp. Disp. *Only three exceptions: The Admit/Deny Hearing (ADH) on & Dispo.11 Progress Review Rev. Deny Order Home Hearing⁷ Rev. Petition the permanency petition may be continued beyond month 12 & EPC Hearing Filed Place. Review Hearing® Hearing® Filed Hearing Order ONLY if: (1) the child is on a trial home visit (THV) at the Hearing² (ADH) Plan if Adj.& Hearing¹² time the permanency petition is supposed to be filed, and then the ADH may be continued for the remaining length of the Filed⁶ Disp.at ADH^p & attomeys THV (a THV may last no more than 6-months); or (2) the child appear is in protective supervision with the parent from whom the child was removed; or (3) at least one other CHIPS petition has GAL and SW reports must be filed and served at least 5 business days prior to each hearing 15 been filed within the last 5 years and the child has been in outof-home placement for 365 days on those prior petition(s), If child not removed from home: Protective Services Case Plan must be filed with petition.³ then, if the agency establishes a compelling reason, the court may continue the ADH on the permanency petition for up to 6 Permanency Proceeding (in order of statutory preference) 335 575 Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) (leading to adoption) Admit/Deny Pretrial TPR. Trial Findings Post-TPR. Petition Hearing 15 Hearing16 Start17 Preferred permanency¹³: Decision Review Adoption through either Filed™ Hearing 19 TPR or Consent to Adopt 335 575 Guardianship to Commissioner of Human Services - Consent to Adopt (GLCHS) Consent Findings 90-Day To adopt Filed21 Review Filed20 Hearing²³ Transfer of Permanent Legal and Physical Custody to a Relative (TPLPC) Post-TLC TLC Admit/Deny Pretrial Trial Findings Petition Hearing²⁴ Hearing²⁵ Start²⁶ Decision Review Filed23 Hearing¹⁸ 335 Permanent Custody to the Agency for Placement in Foster Care (PCA) Findings PCA. Admit/Deny Pretrial Trial Decision Review Filed28 Hearing¹⁴ 335 425 485 575 Temporary Legal Custody to the Agency for Specified Period of Time (TLCSPT) TLCSPT Admit/Denv Pretrial Trial Findings Petition Hearing³¹ Start³² Decision Filed29

CHILD'S REMOVAL FROM HOME



- Child can be removed by:
 - Law enforcement 72 hour police hold
 - County ex parte motion for immediate custody (emergency protective care)

 12-month clock starts with court ordered placement or 60 days after voluntary placement



EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE CARE (EPC) HEARING

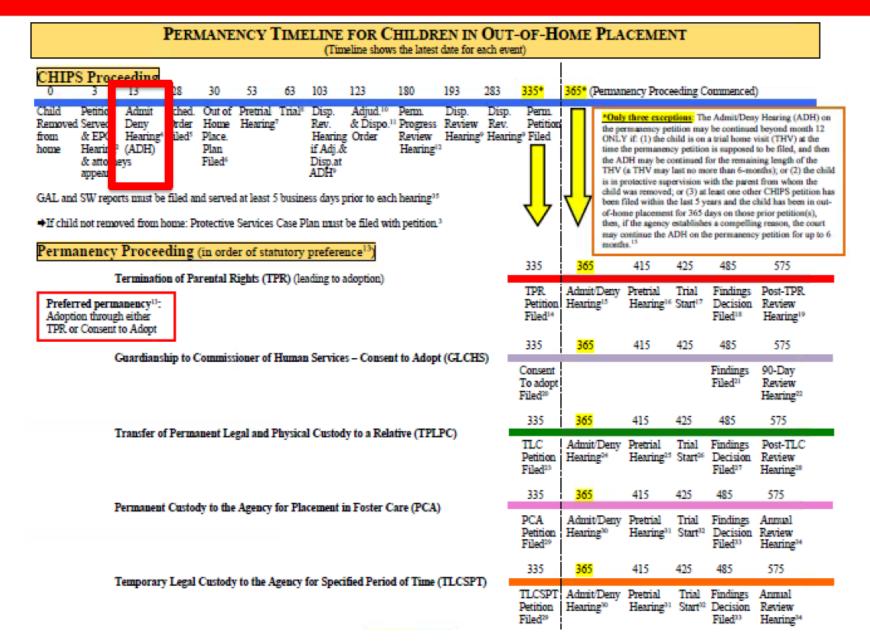


- Must commence within 72 hours of removal
- Summons and petition served on parties, participants and attorneys
- Purpose is to determine whether child can be safely returned home or must be continued in protective care
- Parent attorneys should be present at EPC hearing
- Findings and decisions
 - Prima facie determination
 - Endangerment
 - ICWA

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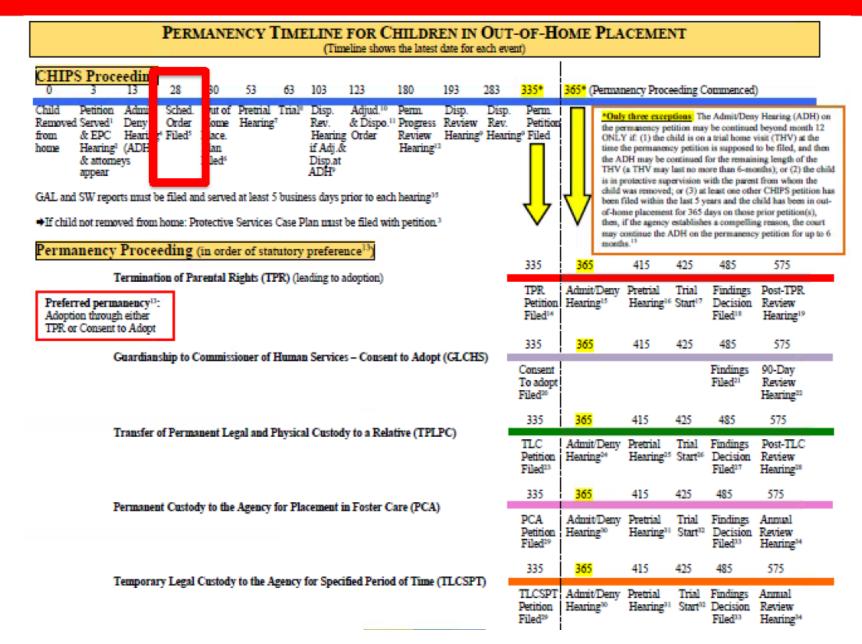


- Other decisions
 - Visitation
 - Identification of relatives
 - Assessments: medical, chemical health, mental health, parenting capacity





- Within 10 days of EPC hearing
- May be combined with EPC if all agree
- If child Indian child, can't commence ADH until tribe and parents receive notice
- Purpose is for parent who is legal custodian to admit or deny



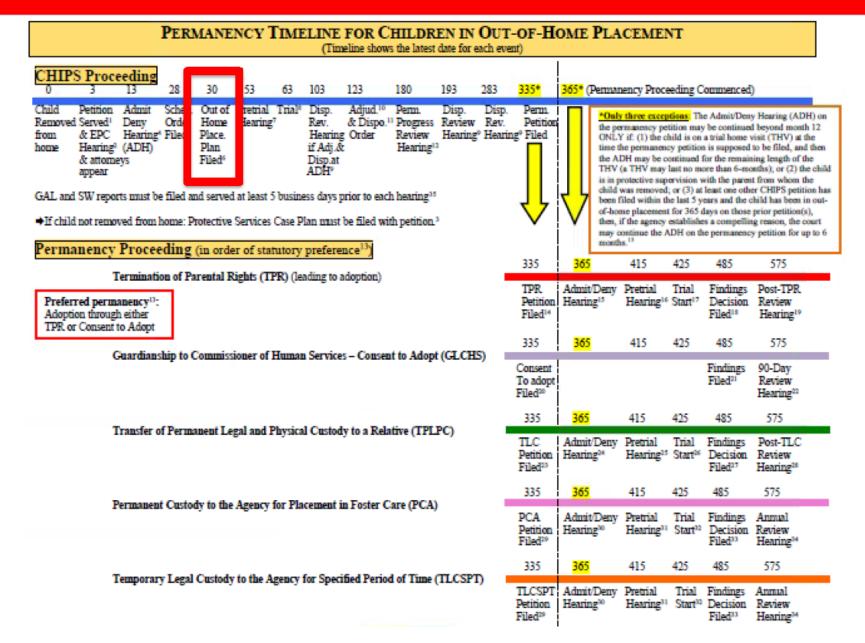


- Purpose: To ensure dates for key events along 12-month continuum are specified as a reminder to parent, judge, county attorney and others
- Timing
 - Must be issued in every CHIPS case
 - Must be issued at or within 15 days of the admit/deny hearing on the CHIPS petition
 - Must be stated on record and put in writing

SCHEDULING ORDER



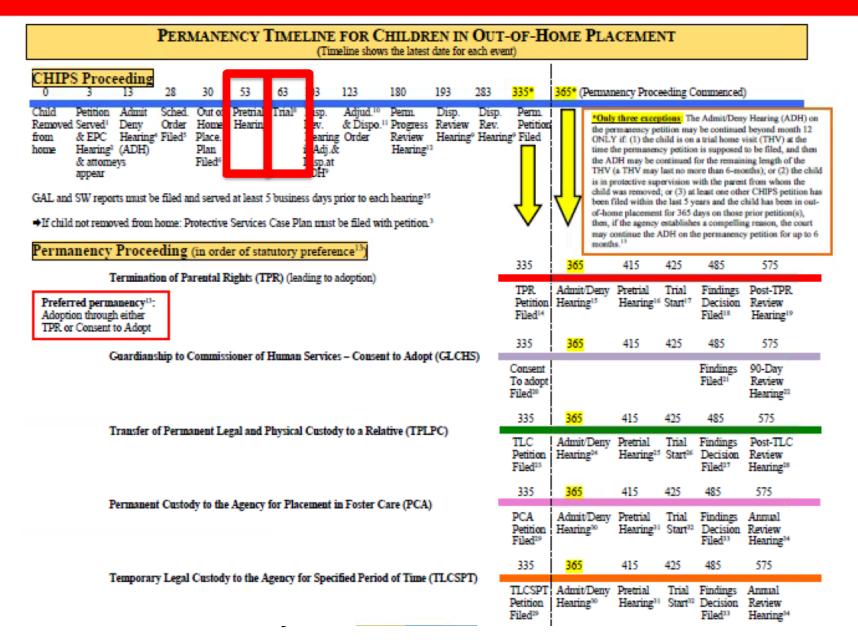
 Content: Must address pre-trial, trial, case plan, permanency progress review hearing, date for perm petition, and admit/deny on perm petition



OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT PLAN



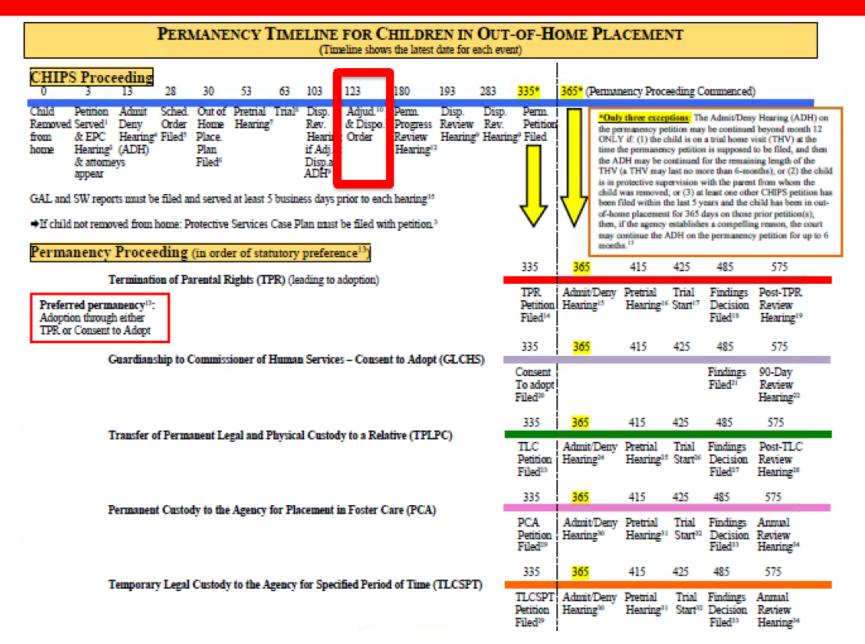
- Must be filed within 30 days of child's removal
- If child not removed, protective services case plan must be filed along with petition
- Road map for case
 - What parent must do to correct conditions
 - Services agency must provide to assist parent



PRE-TRIAL HEARING AND TRIAL



- If parent enters a denial, pretrial must be at least 10 days prior to trial
 - Opportunity to settle or narrow issues
 - Identify witnesses and exhibits
- Trial must commence within 60 days of denial
- Trial must be over consecutive days and completed within 30 days of commencement
- Judge will either grant CHIPS petition or dismiss petition Family Preservation Foundation, Inc.

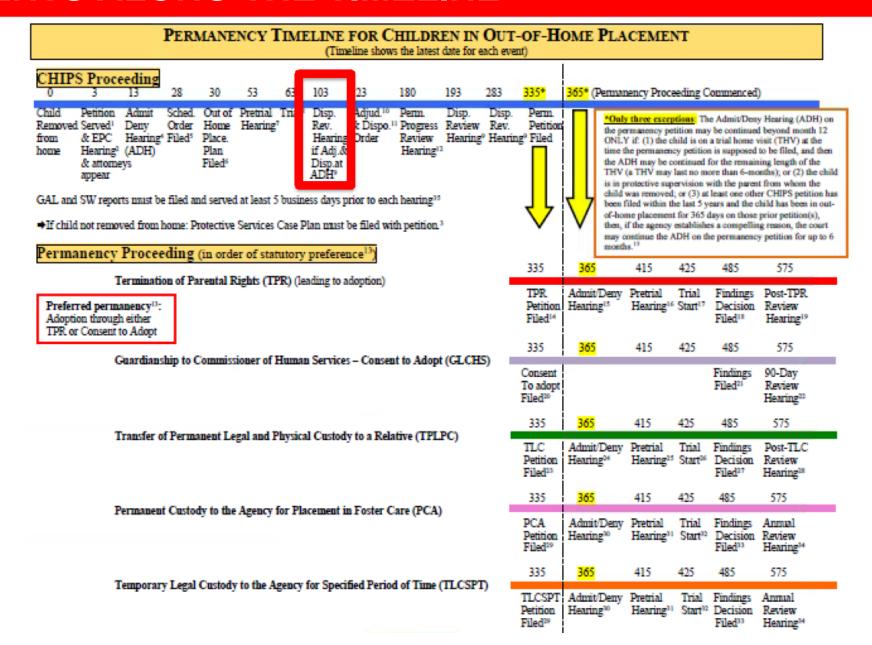


ADJUDICATION



If parent admits, or if trial and county meets burden of proof, court will adjudicate child to be in need of protection or services

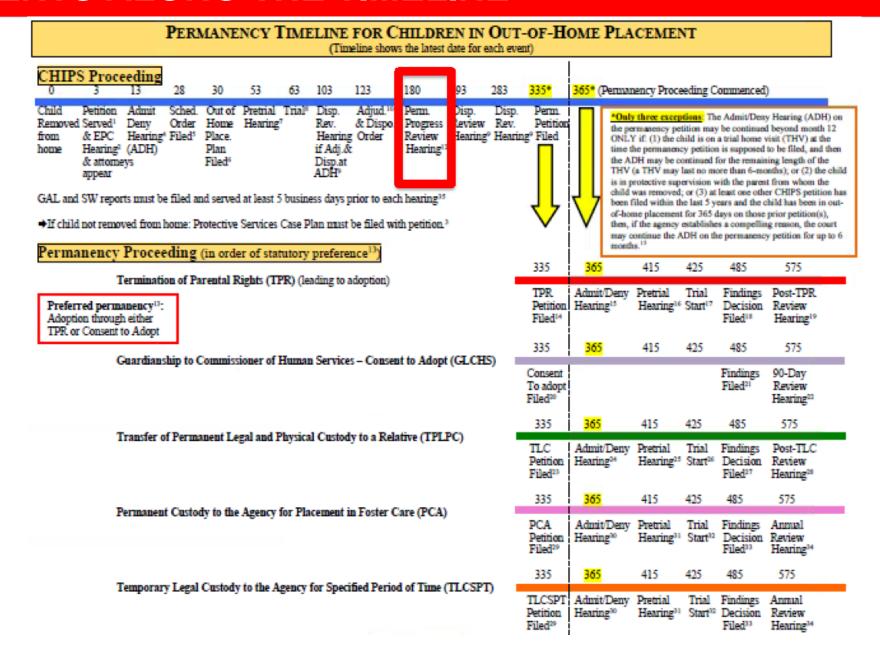
If county does not meet burden of proof, court will dismiss petition and child returned home



INTERIM DISPOSITION REVIEW HEARING (IDH)



- Once adjudication, review hearing at least every 90 days
- More frequent if chemical or mental health issues
- Purpose
 - Review parent progress on case plan
 - Review services provided by agency what more is needed for parent to be successful
 - Review child's wellbeing medical, dental, eyes, education
 - Relatives identified
- GAL and SW reports filed 5 business days prior to hearing so parents have time to review and discuss with attorney



PERMANENCY PROGRESS REVIEW HEARING

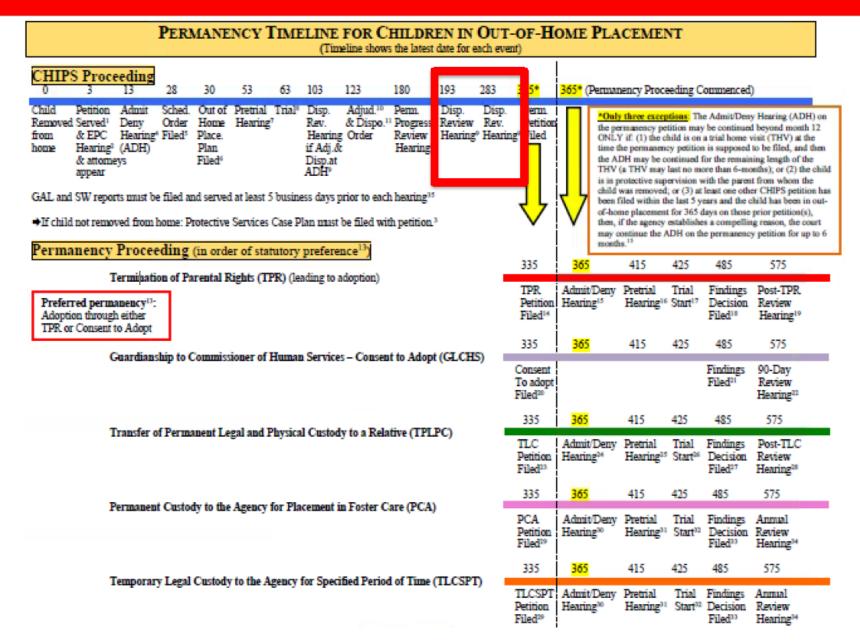


- No later than 6 months (180 days) after child's court ordered placement in foster care or home of nonresident parent
- Required for all children in foster care or home of nonresident parent, regardless of child's age
 - No longer just for children under age 8

PERMANENCY PROGRESS REVIEW HEARING



- Court must review and make findings on whether:
 - Parent making adequate progress OHP
 - Parent maintaining regular contact
 - Child will benefit from ongoing relationship
 - Agency providing necessary services and reasonable or active efforts
- Determination
 - Proceed immediately to permanency
 - Continue for up to 6 additional months



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- Termination of Parental Rights
 - Involuntary TPR
 - Parent presumed to be palpably unfit to parent so new child will be immediately removed (Dept. of Health matching system)
 - Called "CHIPS bypass" or "expedited permanency"
 - Burden of proof switches and parent must rebut presumption of palpable unfitness and prove change of circumstances and capacity to parent



- Voluntary TPR
 - No expedited permanency for new born child may proceed to CHIPS
- Transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative (TPLPC)
- Northstar child eligible for financial benefits
 - Relative must be licensed for 6 months
 - Child must live in home for 6 months
 - Order for TPLPC must be deferred pending finalization of Northstar eligibility requirements

PERMANENCY PETITION FILED



- Permanency custody to agency
 - Formerly long term foster care
 - Only for children age 16+ (and sibling groups)
 - May be requested only by social worker
- Temporary custody to agency for specified period of time
 - Based on child's behavior

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ADMIT/DENY HEARING ON PERMANENCY PETITION



- If not safe for child to return home, court must commence admit/deny hearing on permanency petition no later than 12 months after child is ordered into foster care or in the care of a nonresident parent
- If denial, trial must start by day 425, must be over consecutive days, and must end within 30 days at day 455
- or sooner
- Trial must be over consecutive days
- Court has 15 days to issue order –may extend for up to 15 additional days

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EXTENDING TIMELINE – STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS



- Trial home visit (THV)
 - Can only be with parent from whom removed
 - Can be for up to 6 months
 - Cannot be ordered prior to adjudication
 - May be ordered only when parent has made substantial progress on case plan, is demonstrating capacity to appropriately care for child, and child will be safe
 - Parent has physical custody, but agency has legal custody and can remove child without court order if necessary
 - 12-month clock doesn't stop, but extra time for parent to work on case plan

EXTENDING TIMELINE – STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS

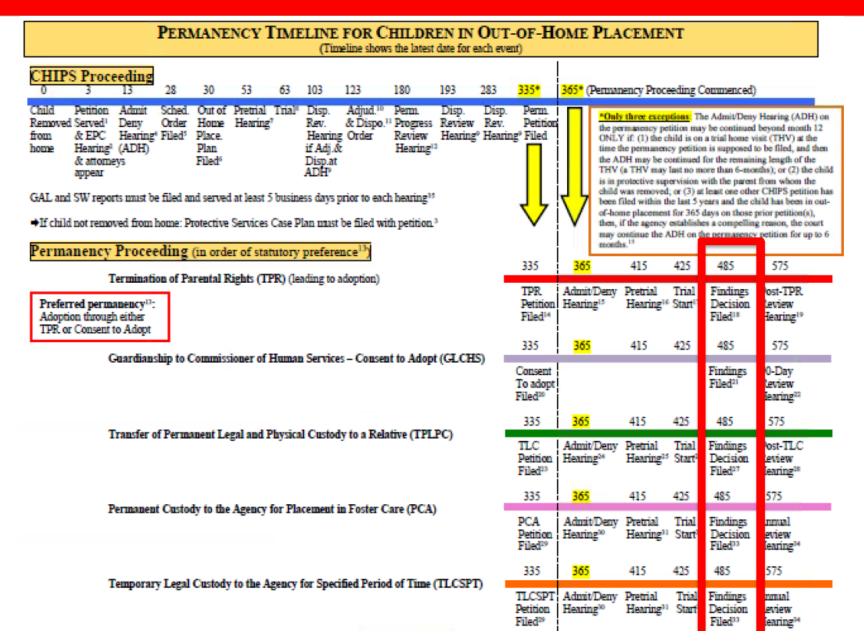


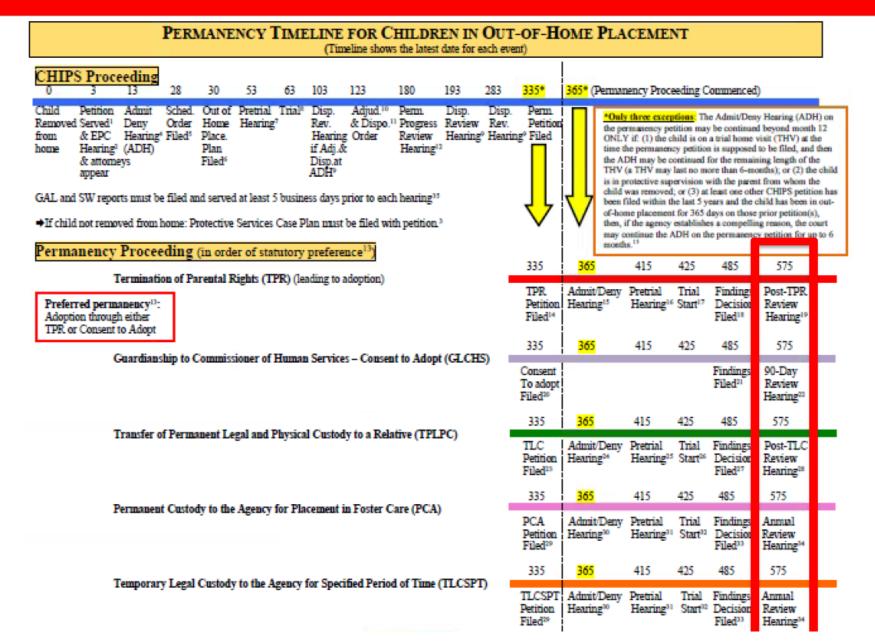
- Protective Supervision
 - Child returned to parent from whom child removed under protective supervision of agency
 - Parent has legal and physical custody
 - ▶ No time limit
 - Permanency clock stops
 - Court jurisdiction continues
 - Regular monitoring to allow parent to increase and demonstrate capacity to safely parent child
 - Agency must seek order to remove child

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EXTENDING TIMELINE – STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS

- Prior CHIPS petitions where child in OHP 365+ days
 - Because child is already at 12 months, county required to immediately proceed to permanency
 - But, county could file motion to proceed to CHIPS if compelling reason
 - If court agrees, can proceed to CHIPS for up to 6 months
 - At end of 6 months, must either reunify only if safe or proceed to permanency







In closing I would like to leave you with one piece of MAJOR advise. Do not believe anything anyone tells you unless you have read the Minnesota State Statue and Caselaw yourself. Especially anything told to you by State and County officials, this includes Judges. Make them show you the relevant Statues that they are referring to, just as I will throughout this entire series.