

How CHINS cases move through the system

1. Begins with a report from concerned person
 - a. Police
 - b. DCF
 - i. assessment
 - ii. investigation
 - iii. accepted v. unaccepted
 - iv. open family case
 - v. court
 - vi. Example: Sophie Turner from Barre City Middle School
2. Filing with the Court
 - a. State's Attorney
 - b. AAG
 - c. Emergency v. TCH
 - d. Example: The affidavit is an emergency, plus most likely initiated by the police. Doesn't provide a time of day.
 - e. What police officers can do.
 - f. Types of CHINS: use PP, page 8
 - g. Example: filed as a CHINS B, could meet the standard of A
3. Emergency/Temporary Care Hearing
 - a. What to expect: Emotions, Who appears, Value Judgments
 - i. jail, treatment center, phone
 - ii. Example: not be in jail for stealing baby formula.
 - b. Children (typically) love their parents and want to be with them
 - c. Children worry about their parents (My experience with a very young child worried their parent would die if they were there.)
 - d. What the court needs to hear
 - e. What can happen-Contested, agreed or argument
4. Custody possibilities at ECO request, at TCH or all hearings
 - a. DCF custody
 - b. Conditional Custody Order
 - i. Custodial Parent
 - ii. Non-custodial parent
 - iii. Other person
 - iv. Expiration
 - c. No Custody Order

- d. Positives and Negatives to each
- e. Example: Aunt Carol, Grandma Anita, Dad Ernie (Rose), Dad Jason (Ben & Robert)

5. Merits

- a. Preponderance of Evidence or Clear & Convincing
- b. Hearsay
- c. Witnesses
- d. Example: Sophie Turner (school), Ben, Robert, Kathy, Dr. Miller (ob), Dr. Thurston (pediatrician), FSW Bob Johnson, Sara Holt (therapist-issues); Jennifer Sullivan (CVSAS-therapist-issues), Officer Goodin
- e. Stipulations

6. Disposition

- a. Report
 - i. Case plan goal-permanency recommendation
 - 1. reunification
 - 2. unification with noncustodial parent
 - 3. adoption
 - 4. permanent guardianship
 - 5. APPLA
 - 6. Example-this is a reunification case.
 - ii. timeline
 - iii. custody recommendation
 - iv. action plan
 - v. visitation
 - vi. progress on action plan
- b. Court Hearing
 - i. witnesses
 - ii. hearsay
 - iii. contested
 - iv. agreed
 - v. waived

7. Permanency

- a. When: year or more often if infant
- b. When adoption is the recommendation
 - i. preadoptive placement
 - ii. relinquishment

- iii. PACA
 - iv. contested hearings
 - c. PLG v. PG
 - d. only for children in DCF custody
8. Trauma-Informed Practice
- a. Get educated-4 Rs
 - i. Realize ACEs are universal and effects entire life
 - ii. Recognize signs and symptoms
 - 1. You are not a psychologist
 - 2. You can recommend assessments based on recognizable signs and symptoms
 - iii. Respond in trauma-informed ways; environment and language matters
 - iv. Reduce/Eliminate re-traumatizing people
 - b. Use names, never call people by their role (except the judge)
 - c. Erase negative terms from your interactions.
 - i. Substance use challenges/struggles v substance abuser
 - ii. Mental health challenges/struggles v unmanageable/crazy/r-word
 - iii. Manipulative/attention-seeking to looking for validation or relationship-seeking
 - iv. Find the positive adaptive value; many people are simply relying on maladaptive coping mechanisms
 - d. Learn difference between misbehavior & chronic stress-induced/stress-related behavior
 - e. Learn and advocate for what is happening to regulate stress, for the individual, family, community; recognize and acknowledge what they are doing
 - f. Build empathy
 - g. Self-Care

Requested CHINS A B C D

Investigating SW _____ On-going SW _____

Afterhours ECO ECO Request Temporary Care Hearing Request

Police Dept: _____

Custody Request:

- DCF Custody
- CCO to Parent _____
 - Conditions Attached
- CCO to Other _____
 - Conditions Attached

Child's Name _____ DOB _____ Gender _____ Family Number _____

Address _____ Indian: Yes-Tribe _____
 No Unknown

Photo of Child attached

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Custodial

Address _____ Same as Child

Parentage Established Date _____ Docket No. _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Custodial

Address _____ Same as Child

Parentage Established Date _____ Docket No. _____

Evidence

Location

Affidavits (other than SW) Attached Other _____

Medical Records Attached Ordered/Requested, Date: _____
Agency: _____

Photos Attached Other _____

Audio Recordings Attached Other _____

Video Recordings Attached Other _____

Intake Reports Attached Other _____

Witness List (including Contact information) Attached To be provided at Preliminary Hearing

Other Tangible Evidence:

1. _____ Police Dept.: _____ Other _____

2. _____ Police Dept.: _____ Other _____

3. _____ Police Dept.: _____ Other _____