

GEORGIA

## **Complaint Filed**

DFCS receives & files complaint of alleged child abuse or neglect.

CASA volunteer can be appointed at any stage. At all stages, he/she advocates for the best interest of the child & considers & evaluates best interest factors in the context of the child's age & developmental needs.

#### Preliminary Protective Hearing

**Judicial Proceedings** 

Judge determines whether probable cause exists that child is dependent & whether protective custody of child is necessary to prevent abuse or neglect.

CASA staff attends hearing, and CASA volunteer is then assigned. CASA volunteer starts interviewing parties & reviewing records in anticipation of adjudication hearing.

Within 10 days if child in foster care

Within 60 days if child not in foster care

Within

75 days

Within

review

4 months

after initial

## **Adjudication Hearing**

Judge determines if there is clear & convincing evidence that child is dependent.

CASA volunteer attends hearing & may testify.

often in conjunction with adjudication hearing, but must be within 30 davs

# Permanency Plan Hearing

Judge decides about child's permanent plan:

- · Reunified w/parent
- Referred for Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)
- Permanent Guardianship
- If compelling reason, placement with fit & willing relative or another planned permanent living arrangement

CASA volunteer presents report at hearing & may be called to testify.

9 months after entering foster care if child involved under

12 months

Within

after entering foster care for other ages

(Subsequent permanency hearings in 6 month intervals for all ages)

### **Initial & Periodic Review**

Court approves completion of relative search, considers whether child is still dependent & determines compliance with case plan, appropriateness of placement, services & visitation.

CASA volunteer presents report at hearing & may be called to testify.

# **Disposition Hearing**

Judge determines what should happen to child for his/her best interest, including legal & physical custody & implementation of services & case plan.

CASA volunteer presents report at hearing & may be called to testify.

# Other Judicial Proceedings Which May Occur

## Termination of Parental Rights

Judge determines if statutory grounds have been met & whether TPR is in best interests of child.

CASA volunteer present at hearing, may present report & testify

> Hearing held within 90 days of filing petition for TPR; order issued no later than 30 days after hearing

### **Post TPR Reviews**

Judge determines appropriateness of permanency plan & other efforts to further adoption.

If CASA volunteer still appointed, may present report & testify

> Review within 6 months if adoption petition not filed & every 6 months until child adopted

## ReinstatementofParentalRights

Child may petition court for reinstatement & be granted if court finds child is no longer to be adopted & reinstated is in best interests of child

If CASA volunteer still appointed, may present report & testify

> 3 years after TPR & adoption no longer permanent plan