

Important Dates in Juvenile Court

Prior to pre-hearing conference.

- Meet with Juvenile as soon as possible. *Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-272.01(2)(d)(i).*
- Discuss case w/ DHHS Caseworker
- Review any available reports (i.e. police, Doctor, etc.)
- Determine issues that need to be addressed by parents and/or Juvenile.
- Determine that reasonable efforts were made to prevent removal. *Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-283.01.*

30 days

- Consider a request for probable cause hearing, § 43-256, or for mental or physical evaluations of your child. § 43-258.
- Determine that you have a copy of the HHS or guardian's report to the court of the location of placement and the juvenile's needs with regard to § 43-246(1) (assuring the child's rights to care, protection, safe and stable environment and development of capacities) § 43-285(3); 43-1312.

90 days

- Adjudication must be had if proceeding under *neglect or abuse*, unless good cause is shown. § 43-278.

Six months

- Adjudication must be had if proceeding for a *law violation*. § 43-277.
- Check on court advisement to the parents following adjudication of dispositional options and possible consequences. *In re Interest of J.S., A.C., and C.S.*, 227 Neb. 251, 417 N.W.2d 147 (1987).
- Check on timeliness of disposition.
- Check on the progress under the Department's plan.
- Visit your child in his or her placement. § 43-272.01(2)(d).
- File your GAL Report and make recommendations. § 43-272.01.
- If there is a basis for termination of parental rights, and it appears to be in the best interest of your child to do so , proceed promptly on permanency.

One year

- Be certain a review hearing is held on the record at lease once each six months that your child is in out-of-home care. § 43-1313.
- Visit your child in his or her placement. § 43-272.01(2)(d).
- File your GAL Report and make recommendations. § 43-272.01.

- Check on permanency hearing. § 43-1312(3); § 43-285(4). The permanency hearing may be included in a review hearing and need not be a separate proceeding. *In re Interest of DeWayne G. & Devon G.*, 263 Neb. 43 (2002).
- If the facts indicate that reunification is not reasonably likely to occur in a timely manner, a basis for termination of parental rights exists, and it is in the best interest of the juvenile to do so, consult with your caseworker about proceeding to permanency. *Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-1312(2)*.

15 months

- Determine if and when your child may be in out of home placement for 15 of 22 months. At that time determine if the Department has made the appropriate report to the court and if the State has filed for termination of parental rights, § 43-292.02 or has requested an exception hearing, 43-292.03.
- Visit your child in his or her placement. § 43-292.01(2)(d).
- If no action has been taken toward permanency, confer with the State and consider filing the appropriate motion or petition yourself.

Calendar each six months thereafter to review permanency for your child to assure review hearings timely occur on the record.

Full Article can be found in *The Nebraska Lawyer Magazine* November/December 2006, "The Guardian Ad Litem: Parent for the Child in Juvenile Proceedings" by Robert F. Wheeler.