Handout #5.1

Arizona Dependency Court Timeline

Initial Dependency Hearing Dependency Disposition Hearing ** Permanency Planning Hearing *Dependency Petition Filed Occurs 21 days after Occurs at the same time as Adjudication Occurs within 12 months of the date Occurs within 72 hours of the child Dependency Petition filed. an Hearing or within 30 days. The Judge the child entered foster care. If the being taken into custody. The Initial Dependency Hearing is reviews the case plan and instructs the Judge decides the child cannot return petition asks the judge to protect held If parents did not attend the parents on what exactly they need to do home another permanent plan will the child from neglect, abuse or Preliminary Protective Hearing. in order for the child to return home. be selected at the Permanency Hearing. abandonment by making the child a Reunification services are offered ward of the court. if the child is not returned to the parent. Child is removed 6 months - 12 months from the home **Report and Review Hearing Preliminary Protective Hearing Dependency Adjudication Hearing Termination of Parental Rights Hearing** Occurs 5 to 7 days after child is Occurs no later than 90 days after the Occurs every 6 months or Occurs 10 days after Permanency Hearing. removed. The Judge will make Dependency Petition is filed. Will occur sooner. The Judge reviews the If the Judge ends the parents' rights DCS child's placement and the orders about where the child will if the parents do not agree with will locate an adoptive family for the child. progress made in solving the decision to place child in out-ofreside, visitation, and services to family problems. be provided. home care. The Judge will decide if the child is to return home or remain **Adoption Hearing** in out-of-home care. If the Judge and child agree, the adoption is approved. **Alternative Planned Permanent Guardianship Hearing Living Arrangement** If the Judge agrees to guardianship, the family — -OR — When adoption and guardianship are not possible, the child stays in the child is with will make

all decisions for the child.

foster care until the age of 18.

- * A **Dependency Petition** is a written legal document which gives the facts about why a child is in danger in their home, what things were tried to help make things safe and why those things are not enough to keep the child safe.
- ** The proceedings represented in this timeline are shortened when they involve children under the age of three.