

# Legal Events and Timelines Affecting the Child

**Child Enters Custody**

**Day 1**

**Custody Hearing**

**Day 10**

Judge decides whether there is justification for the child to remain in CYFD custody.

**Adjudication/Disposition**

**Month 2**

Judge listens to evidence and decides if the child has been abused and/or neglected. If the judge decides the child has been abused and/or neglected, the judge orders a treatment plan be implemented.

**Initial Judicial Review**

**Month 4**

Judge checks the progress of the treatment plan. Changes may be made if everyone agrees.

**NM Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board**

**Month 9**

Members of the local Citizen Review Board meet and review the case with interested parties and submit their recommendations and concerns to the judge overseeing the case.

**\*Cases are then reviewed every six months by the Citizen Review Board.**

**Permanency Hearing**

**Month 10**

Judge decides if the child can return home safely. If the child cannot be returned home, a subsequent permanency hearing will be held.

**Annual Permanency Hearings and Judicial Reviews**

Held throughout the life of a case to determine progress, to order further treatment, and to ultimately obtain permanency for each child.

It is easy to forget as we read the numbers and review the data that each number in this report represents a child who has been abused and/or neglected and whose life has been permanently changed. While reading this report, please remember that each number also represents a child's complex life that is interwoven with a community and is disrupted by abusive and/or neglectful parents and his/her removal from the home of that parent.

**Report child abuse and neglect to  
CYFD's Statewide Central Intake at 1-800-797-3260.**