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| Calendaring | *Hearings are scheduled to minimize waiting time* *C1a**Hearings are scheduled as close to a time certain as possible**C1b**Hearings are at least 30 minutes in length to address all issues required under the court rules.**C2a**Another dependency day is added to master calendar to accommodate increased hearing length.**C2b* | **We stopped the 1:00 pm call of the calendar with everyone on simultaneously. Depending on the day, families either did not wait, or waited all day to have their case heard.** **Cases are scheduled for a time certain now. We give each case at least an hour, and more time if the attorneys indicate more time is needed. Any case taking longer than an hour can be specially set.** **We doubled the length of the calendar.** |
|  | *Hearings are not rescheduled by request to by request to court administration; hearings are rescheduled only if a motion is filed under URJC 7.7 (general policy on continuances; for exceptions, see Rules 7.3 and 8.6) and the court makes findings on the record as required in URJC 11.3 and O.C.G.A. §15-11-110.**C3b* | **We now use Hall County’s continuance order, with the parties having to submit, in writing, their request and reasoning for a continuance to the judge.**  |
| Front End Loading | Court uses scheduling orders in every case so parties and attorneys know timelines and dates, which includes the date by which the permanency hearing must be commenced.FL4 | **We will use scheduling orders starting in September.**  |
| Front-End Loading | The search considers placing the child with a fit and willing relative willing to commit to being the permanent placement for the child if reunification cannot occur.FL9b | **We now have a relative/fictive kin form the Court distributes to parents to fill out.** |
| Front-End Loading | FL5(a)-(c) | **DFCS sends the parents their case plans, putting goals and steps in the body of the email. When returning to face-to-face meetings, the case manager will print out a simplified goal/steps for the parent(s). This allows the family to clearly understand what needs to be accomplished without having to sift through a 30 page document.** |
| Pre-Petition Filing | PP4 | **The Department continues to do a good job of implementing safety plans and services in the home to prevent removal. Most Heard county foster children enter care only after multiple services have been attempted.**  |
| Front-End Loading | FL9 | **The Department will be working on dillgent search filings. It is done, but they will be doing a better job of filing those documents earlier in the process.**  |
| Reports | R1 | **We are appointing CASAs as GALs in Heard now. All CASAs provide written reports circulated to the parties before court.**  |
| Courtroom Facilities | CF1 | **Heard County recently went through a total remodel. The new courthouse has modern technology, including internet access and an updated recording system. Unfortunately, there are no “child-friendly” areas. This courtroom serves as the Superior Court (no State Court in Heard), Probate, Magistrate, Municipal and Juvenile.****A picture containing indoor, ceiling, floor, conference room  Description automatically generated** |