



STREAMLINING HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF A REVIEW HEARING FOR YOUR CLIENT

By Darice M. Good, J.D. CWLS and Emma Brown Bernstein, J.D., CWLS

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- Periodic Review Hearing;
Required Evidence;
Consideration of Hearsay

Timing

- Why Timing is Important?
- Initial Review Hearing 75 days after Adjudication
- Every four months after the 75-day Review Hearing
- Discretion of Court to Scheduled subsequent Review Hearings

- Review Hearing
- Paramount Concern
- Adjudicated Child
 - HEALTH and SAFETY

How to Prepare for a Review Hearing

- Talk to your Client before Hearing
- Talk to Service Providers
- Obtain Evidence
- Talk to Parties
- Review Last Order
- What is your Theory at the Review Hearing
- Motions?
- In Person vs. Virtual

Court Findings

- Finalize Relative Search
- Set subsequent four-month review
- Continued dependency
- Case Plan – Best Plan?
- Compliance with Case Plan
- Changes to Child's Placement
- Progress on Permanency Plan
- Services being provided
- Visitation
- ILP Services
- Reasonable Efforts

Your Client: The Witness

- Prepare your client to testify
- Prepare your clients direct
- Practice Cross Exam
- What do you want the Court to feel about your client
- Where will the client testify
- Virtual vs. In Person
- What to Wear

Court Findings, Continued

- Lack of substantial progress SHALL order DFCS to prepare a NR Case Plan or Concurrent Case plan
- Whether DFCS intends to petition for termination of parental rights
 - Best Interests
 - Importance?

- Court may hear any evidence, including hearsay evidence.

But ...
must be relevant, reliable, and necessary to determine the needs of the child.

After the Review: What Now?

- Call Your Client
 - Be generous
 - Be Honest
 - Expectations
 - Change Course?
- Review the Order
 - Draft your Own?
- Start Preparing for Next Review