

HEARING CHECKLIST

OPENING STATEMENT

- Explain type and purpose of the hearing, including any relevant permanency time frames
- Ask parents/caregivers and children: What is something that has gone well since the last hearing
- Are the right people present? Who is missing, and if so, why? Are all parties identified, located, and notified?

ENGAGEMENT OF PARTIES

- Address parents by name
- Provide parents and children with an opportunity to be heard (not only through attorney)
- Use understandable language

SAFETY & CONDITIONS TO RETURN HOME (ONLY REUNIFICATION)

- What are the specific safety issues preventing the child(ren) from returning home today?
- What is being done to address the safety issues? What progress has been made? Any barriers?

FAMILY TIME

- How is family visitation going?
- Can there be unsupervised visits with the parents? If not, what is the plan to move to unsupervised visits?
- Are the siblings placed together? If not, why not and are they spending time together?

PERMANENCY GOAL

- What has been accomplished towards the permanency goal since the last hearing? Any barriers?

CONCURRENT GOAL

- Is the concurrent goal still appropriate?
- What efforts have been made towards the concurrent goal since the last hearing?

KINSHIP

- Is the child placed with appropriate relatives? If not, what efforts have been made to identify and place the child with appropriate relatives since the last hearing?
- What efforts have been made to maintain relative connections?

CHILD WELL-BEING

- Does the child have any unmet needs (i.e. physical, social, educational, mental health)? If so, what is being done or needs to be done?
- *Maintain child's significant connections (i.e. cultural and community connections, social/emotional connections, school, sports, extracurricular activities) and refer to Education Court Report*

NEXT STEPS

- What must be accomplished before the next hearing? Who is responsible for what?