



NAVIGATING

Dependency, Neglect, and Abuse Court in Kentucky

Emergency or Non-Emergency Custody Orders are filed with a Petition alleging that Neglect and/or Abuse has occurred, or that the caregiver cannot care for the child and it is not the caregiver's fault. (Dependency)



Temporary removal hearing (TRH): The judge decides if the case should proceed. The judge also orders who will have custody of the child for now. The child could be left with their current caregiver, placed with a relative or fictive kin, or placed in the Cabinet's custody.

This is only temporary. Parents maintain rights. The judge may enter other court orders during this hearing including orders for visitation, and contact with parents/grandparents, etc.



Adjudication hearing: The judge determines whether the allegations in the petition are sufficiently accurate to meet the statute for Dependency, Neglect or Abuse.

Testimony is given during this hearing. The caregiver, accused individual, caseworker, medical professionals, therapist, police, etc. could be called to testify about the allegations presented in the petition.

Finding of neglect, abuse, or dependency

No finding of neglect, abuse or dependency

Disposition hearing: The judge checks in on the parent's progress, makes sure the parent's have a case plan, ensures court orders have been followed and decides who should have custody of the child until the case is closed. Parents maintain rights and are able to continue working their case plan.

Case is Closed