

RULES FOR JUVENILE COURT

DISTRICT 17-A ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

1.0 Scope

These rules apply to all cases in which a petition is filed alleging that a juvenile is delinquent, undisciplined, abused, neglected or dependent.

2.0 Purpose

These local rules establish procedures for Juvenile Court, which are designed to fulfill the purposes of the North Carolina Juvenile Code. To that end, these rules serve the following purposes:

- (a) To secure for the child a safe and appropriate placement when removal from the child's parent or legal custodian is necessary and in the child's best interests;
- (b) To provide a just, thorough, speedy and efficient determination of each juvenile protection matter before the court and ensure due process for all persons involved in the proceedings;
- (c) To ensure a coordinated decision-making process;
- (d) To reduce unnecessary delays in court proceedings; and
- (e) To encourage the involvement of parents and, when appropriate, children in the proceedings.

3.0 Construction and Enforcement

These rules shall be construed to accomplish the purposes set forth in Rule 2. The Court may impose sanctions against a party or an attorney who fails to comply with these rules; however, no rule shall be construed, applied or enforced in a manner that will endanger or harm a child or prejudice the rights of a party.

4.0 Appointment of Counsel

- (a) General: The Clerk shall maintain a current list of attorneys eligible to be appointed to represent juveniles alleged to be delinquent; a separate list of attorneys eligible to be appointed to represent parents of children alleged to be abused, neglected or dependent; and a separate list of attorneys to be appointed to represent minors requesting judicial waiver of parental consent to abortion. To be included on any list an attorney must have a local working telephone number at which he or she can be contacted, complete any initial or follow-up training specified by any

Administrative Order of the Chief District Court Judge, and maintain a mailbox in the Clerk's Office of the Rockingham County Courthouse.

- (b) Delinquent and Undisciplined Juvenile: The Clerk shall assign an attorney to represent the juvenile as soon as possible after a petition is filed. An attorney shall not accept appointment in a case if he or she knows any reason why he or she may not be available to try the case through the first disposition hearing within thirty (30) days.
- (c) Abuse/Neglect/Dependency: When a petition is filed alleging abuse, neglect or dependency, the Clerk shall appoint separate counsel to represent each respondent named in the petition against whom allegations are made. The Clerk shall prepare a Notice of Appointment of Counsel to be served on the respondent with the petition and summons. The notice shall include the attorney's name and business address and telephone number and shall direct the respondent to contact the attorney. The notice shall also inform the respondent:
 - (1) That the respondent may retain counsel of his/her choosing;
 - (2) That the court, at the first hearing, will determine whether the respondent qualifies for appointed counsel and, if the respondent does, whether the respondent waives the right to such counsel;
 - (3) That the court will dismiss the appointed counsel if the respondent does not qualify for appointed counsel, if the respondent waives the right to counsel; or if the respondent does not appear at the first hearing;
 - (4) Of the date and time of the Child Planning Conference and Non-Secure Hearing (Reference Rule 10)

After the first hearing in a case an attorney appointed to represent a respondent who has not been served or who does not appear at the hearing, may be released in the court's discretion and shall not be responsible for further appearances unless re-appointed by the court.

- (d) Before appointing a specific attorney, the clerk shall ensure that the attorney will be available for the Child Planning Conference and the first hearing in the case and, to the best of the attorney's knowledge, for every stage of the proceeding. The Clerk may make this determination either by talking with the attorney or by pre-arrangement with one or more attorneys on the appointment list. It shall be the continuing responsibility of counsel to immediately inform the clerk by the quickest means available of any inability to attend a Child Planning Conference.
- (e) GAL Attorney: Appointment of a Guardian Ad Litem attorney shall occur upon the filing of a petition and in accordance with N.C.G.S. 7B-601 and shall continue through the dispositional hearing. Following the original adjudication and disposition, the GAL attorney shall continue to provide representation to the GAL program. However, any appearance by a GAL attorney at a review hearing shall be deemed a limited appearance solely for that hearing.

5.0 Responsibilities of Attorneys

- (a) Before being eligible for appointment to represent respondents attorney must satisfy the court:
 - (1) That they have sufficient experience and skills to provide competent representation;
 - (2) That they have a good working knowledge of juvenile law and juvenile court procedures;
 - (3) That they have a good understanding of Child Protective Services and the related mandates that apply to DSS and Guardian Ad Litem;
 - (4) That they have completed satisfactorily any initial or continuing training specified by the Chief District Court Judge.

- (b) **Priority:** An attorney who represents a party in a case scheduled for hearing shall appear at calendar call at 9:30 AM unless excused by the Court or by agreement of all other parties. An attorney who has a conflict in another Court shall comply with the relevant rules relating to priority, and it shall be the responsibility of the attorney to keep the Courtroom Clerk informed of his or her location at all times. Juvenile Court shall have priority among the other District Courts for purposes of calendar calls.

- (c) **Continuation of Representation:** After a parent's attorney or juvenile's attorney enters an appearance or accepts an appointment in a case, he or she shall represent his or her client through all stages of the proceedings as long as the child continues within the jurisdiction of the Court. Leave of Court to withdraw from a case shall only be granted for compelling reasons.

6.0 Calendaring

- (a) The juvenile calendar shall be maintained by the Clerk assigned to Juvenile Court. No case shall be scheduled on such calendar except by said Clerk or with the consent of the Presiding Judge.

- (b) Regarding first appearances in felonies, secure custody, and nonsecure custody hearings, if the need arises for them to be heard at times other than regular juvenile court sessions, these hearings can be scheduled by the Presiding Judge in conjunction with the Juvenile Clerk and shall be scheduled on the next available court date.

- (c) Any cases involving a juvenile previously adjudicated delinquent, undisciplined, abused neglected, or dependent shall be heard by the same Judge who presided at the adjudication, unless circumstances otherwise require.

- (d) At or before the conclusion of each hearing, the next hearing date shall be set.

- (e) Court calendars shall be provided to the GAL Office, Department of Social Services (hereinafter referred to as DSS), the District Attorney, Office of Juvenile Justice, and...
- (f) Juvenile Court will be held on specified days each month as set forth in the District Court Assignments Calendar, a copy of which is available in the District Court Judges' Chambers. If additional court sessions are needed, the Chief District Court Judge will schedule the same.
- (g) Hearings on judicial waiver of parental consent shall be scheduled for the next business date following the filing of the petition.
- (h) At the conclusion of the calendar call, the District Attorney or the DSS Attorney shall announce the order in which cases are to be called and the approximate time required to complete each case. The Court shall to the extent possible, establish a schedule in order to all attorneys, parties and witnesses to address business elsewhere while waiting for their cases to be reached. Attorneys who are excused until a certain time shall return at that time and shall keep the Courtroom Clerk informed of their location until that time.

7.0 Continuances

- (a) Juvenile cases, including motions for review in neglect and abuse matters should be disposed at the earliest opportunity, including the first setting for hearing. Requests for continuances that are made after the first setting for hearing on the merits of the case shall only be granted for extraordinary cause.
- (b) All applications for continuance shall be made to the District Court Judge presiding over the session of court for which the case is calendared. If the trial judge is not known or is unavailable at the time the request is made, the application should be addressed to Judge Wilkins or Judge Allen.
- (c) The various levels of court should work together to try to move cases as expeditiously as possible. Age of case, subject matter, and priority of setting should be given as much primacy as the level of court when resolving court conflicts.
- (d) Attorneys shall notify the court and opposing counsel of any other court conflict(s) as they become known and shall keep the court advised of the resolution of that conflict. All judges shall communicate with other judges to resolve such conflicts. In resolving court conflicts juvenile cases shall take precedence over all other district court matters.
- (e) All orders for continuance should be documented in writing, and shall include the name of the moving party, any objections to the continuance, and the basis for the continuance.

- (f) All applications for continuance shall be made as soon as a conflict is identified, and all impacted – opposing counsel, unrepresented parties, subpoenaed witnesses, or court staff charged with subpoenaing witnesses- shall be notified as soon as possible by the moving party.
- (g) All parties should have an opportunity to be heard on a motion to continue.
- (h) Factors to be considered by the appropriate court official when deciding whether to grant or deny a motion for continuance should include:
 - (1) the best interests of the child;
 - (2) the opportunity to exercise the right to effective assistance of counsel;
 - (3) the age of the case and the seriousness of the charge;
 - (4) the incarceration status of the juvenile;
 - (5) the effect on children and spouses if the issue is continued and not resolved;
 - (6) the impact of a continuance on the safety of the parties or any other persons;
 - (7) the status of the trial calendar for the session;
 - (8) the number, moving party, and grounds for previous continuances;
 - (9) the due diligence of counsel in promptly making a motion for continuance as soon as practicable and notifying opposing counsel and witnesses;
 - (10) the period of delay caused by the continuance requested;
 - (11) the presence of witnesses, including the juvenile;
 - (12) the availability of witnesses for the present session, or for a future session;
 - (13) whether the basis of the motion is the existence of a legitimate conflict with another court setting;
 - (14) the availability of counsel;
 - (15) consideration of the financial consequences to the public, the parties, the attorneys, or witnesses if the case is continued; and
 - (16) any other factor that promotes the fair administration of justice.
- (i) Upon granting a motion for continuance, the judge shall reschedule the case for a specified date, taking into consideration the availability of counsel, parties and witnesses.
- (j) All undisciplined cases should be disposed within 30 days of service of the petition. All delinquency cases involving misdemeanor offenses should be disposed within 90 days of service of the petition and those involving felony offenses within 120 days of service of the petition.
- (k) All adjudication of neglect and abuse cases should be within 60 days of service of the petition. All termination of parental rights (TPRs) should be disposed within 120 days after service of the petition.

8.0 Service of Summons and Petition

- (a) From the date the petition is filed unto the adjudication hearing the petitioner shall have a continuing duty to identify and locate any respondent who has not been served with a copy of the summons and petition and to have the summons and petition served on any such respondent. A parent's request for counsel shall be deemed a general appearance for purposes of service of the summons and petition. Additionally, any motion for service by certified or registered mail shall be liberally granted.
- (b) All petitions, Notices of Appointment of Counsel, Notice of the date and time of the Child Planning Conference, Notice of the Non-Secure Hearing and any other documents relevant to the proceedings shall be served in accordance with N.C.G.S 7B-406 through 7B-413.

9.0 Notice to Other Agencies

- (a) If subsequent to adjudication, it appears that the best interest of a juvenile or the community may require that the juvenile receive services from a public agency, the Court may schedule a hearing to determine the appropriate level of services that agency should provide. If requested by the Court, the Clerk or a party shall serve the director or other appropriate representative of the agency with a notice of hearing and of the issues to be addressed. If the notice is served on a county agency, it shall also be served on the county attorney.
- (b) At the disposition or subsequent hearing for which the agency has been served with notice, the court may hear evidence and enter orders relating to the level and type of services that the agency can and should provide, based on available services, to meet the juvenile's needs.

10. Child Planning Conferences

- (a) Whenever a juvenile is taken into nonsecure custody, a Child Planning Conference shall be held on the first Tuesday after the juvenile is taken into custody. The purpose of the Child Planning Conference is to expedite the process of establishing stability for the child by bringing all the interested parties and community resources together in a timely fashion to begin the planning process for the child's well-being.
- (b) The Juvenile Clerk will schedule the time for the Child Planning Conference and will note it on the juvenile summons that is served on the parents. The Juvenile Clerk will also notify the Child Planning Conference Facilitator of the date and time of the Conference and will notify the DSS Attorney at the time of the filing of the petition.

- (c) The Child Planning Conference will be conducted by the Child Planning Conference Facilitator. The conference will be attended by the DSS Social Worker and any Supervisor who wishes to attend, the Guardian Ad Litem and the GAL Attorney, the Parent/Custodian, each Parent's/Custodian's Attorney, the DSS Attorney, representatives from Mental Health, Youth Services and the Rockingham County School System when the juvenile is a student in a public school in Rockingham County.
- (d) It should be understood by all parties participating in the Child Planning Conference that it is non-prejudicial to the parents/custodians in terms of the adjudication.
- (e) The following issues are to be covered at the Child Planning Conference:
 - (1) Placement
 - (2) Visitation
 - (3) Paternity
 - (4) Child Support
 - (5) Services
 - (6) Risk Assessment
- (f) At the Child Planning Conference, the conference facilitator shall:
 - (1) Explain the nature of the proceeding and the purposes of the conference and advise the parties of the nature and extent of confidentiality for the meeting;
 - (2) Introduce all parties at the conference;
 - (3) Require all parties to sign a confidentiality agreement;
 - (4) Review the adequacy of notice and service of process;
 - (5) Attempt to ascertain the identity and whereabouts of any parent, guardian or custodian of the juvenile who is not present, whether those persons have been served, and the steps to be taken to identify, locate, or serve any such person;
 - (6) Hear information from the parties, regarding:
 - (a) the conditions alleged in the petition
 - (b) the conditions or risks that precipitated the nonsecure custody order, including consideration of the results of the petitioner's risk assessment;
 - (c) the conditions or risks justifying nonsecure custody under N.C.G.S. 7B-503; and
 - (d) the efforts made by the petitioner to prevent or eliminate the need for nonsecure custody and whether the conditions established at the time of the petition continue.
- (g) All parties will be given an opportunity to present information and to ask questions of the other parties.
- (h) The conference facilitator shall determine whether there is agreement or disagreement among the parties as to the need for the juvenile to remain in nonsecure custody.

- (i) If all parties agree that the juvenile **does not** need to remain in nonsecure custody, the conference facilitator shall explore the following issues with the parties:
 - (1) Service needs and referrals;
 - (2) Specific steps the parties will take before the first hearing;
 - (3) Give all parties an opportunity to ask questions;
 - (4) Set a specific date for the first hearing and explain the purpose of the hearing;
 - (5) In any case in which a parent's identity or whereabouts are unknown or the paternity of the child has not been legally established, specify in writing any steps that are to be taken to identify the parent, locate the parent or establish paternity.

- (j) Before the conclusion of the Child Planning Conference, the facilitator shall:
 - (1) Summarize in writing, in the form of a proposed consent order releasing the juvenile from nonsecure custody, the basis for that agreement, including the proposed plan for the child pending a hearing;
 - (2) Give all parties an opportunity to review the proposed consent order and to decide whether to sign it;
 - (3) If all parties voluntarily sign the proposed consent order, present it as soon as possible to a district court judge, who shall conduct a hearing and shall make findings of fact to support the order of the court.

- (k) If the parties do not agree that a juvenile should be released from nonsecure custody, the conference facilitator shall explore the following issues with the parties:
 - (1) Placement options for the juvenile, including possible relative placements, efforts to keep siblings together;
 - (2) Efforts needed to ensure that a school-aged juvenile's school placement and attendance are not disrupted;
 - (3) Parental visitation;
 - (4) Sibling visitation;
 - (5) Service needs and referrals;
 - (6) Financial support for the juvenile;
 - (7) Service needs and referrals, including medical psychological and developmental;
 - (8) Specific steps to be taken by the parties before the next hearing.

- (l) Before the conclusion of the Child Planning Conference, the facilitator shall:
 - (1) Construct a memorandum of agreement if the parties can agree on specific steps to take or services to provide before the nonsecure hearing;
 - (2) Give all parties an opportunity to review the memorandum of agreement and decide whether to sign it;
 - (3) Ensure that all parties will receive a copy of an order signed by a judge or any written agreement entered as a result of a Child Planning Conference.

Abuse, Neglect, Dependency and Termination of Parental Rights Hearings

11. Timeliness Requirements

- (a) If a child is placed in nonsecure custody, a hearing to determine the need for continued nonsecure custody shall be held within seven (7) days, unless an earlier hearing is required by N.C.G.S. 7B-506. Subsequent review of nonsecure custody shall be held as required by N.C.G.S. 7B-506.
- (b) If a child is placed in nonsecure custody, the adjudication hearing shall be scheduled for the earliest possible date and in no event more than forty (40) days after removal of the child from the home.
- (c) In all other cases, the adjudication hearing shall be scheduled for no more than forty (40) days after the filing of the petition.
- (d) Whenever possible, the disposition shall take place immediately following adjudication. The disposition will otherwise be set before the same Judge as soon as practicable.

12. Discovery

- (a) Orders: Discovery of the DSS records is available by use of a discovery order. The discovery order shall be signed ex parte upon appointment or retention of counsel. A copy of the discovery order shall be served on the DSS Attorney and mailed to the social worker is known prior to any initiation of discovery.
- (b) Access: The GAL Attorney, the DSS Attorney and any party with a discovery order may have access to any records subpoenaed (including videotapes) intended to be used as an exhibit when received by the Court.
- (c) Timeliness: Requests for discovery shall be made in a manner to not delay scheduled hearings and shall not serve as a grounds for continuance for other than good cause found by the court.

13. Stipulation in Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Cases/Adjudication

- (a) If the parties agree to stipulate to certain findings and/or conclusions and/or provisions of the Court's decree, the Court shall determine, before accepting the stipulation in open Court, that the parties understand the content and consequences of the stipulation, including the possibility that the child may be removed permanently from the home or that their parental rights may ultimately be

terminated, and that they voluntarily consent to the stipulation. The Court's findings shall be set forth on the record.

- (b) In lieu of stipulation, in order to protect the parent's constitutional rights or for any other reason, a parent may choose not to resist the entry into evidence of the petition, court summary, medical reports or other documents forming the basis of an adjudication. A statement that a party does not resist the findings/stipulations shall be deemed a sufficient finding of fact. Further, a parent may choose not to resist a determination by the Court that a juvenile is abused, neglected and/or dependent.

14. Predisposition Report

- (a) Prior to predisposition/settlement, DSS shall prepare a predisposition report that shall include at least the following:
 - (1) A description of the placement plan for the child and how that plan is appropriate to the needs of the child;
 - (2) A description of the plan of services for the child and their family, and how that plan is appropriate to the needs of the child;
 - (3) A statement of changes in parental behavior which are needed to correct the conditions that led to the neglect, dependency or abuse and the actions the parents must take; and
 - (4) If there is a recommendation that the child be removed from the home, the report shall also include:
 - (a) a statement of the efforts by DSS to prevent the need for placing the child outside the home;
 - (b) a description of the efforts by DSS to reunify the family, including services which have been offered, provided or rejected;
 - (c) a statement of why the child cannot be reasonably protected from the identified problems while remaining in the child's home;
 - (d) the identity of all relatives and friends who have been contacted about providing a placement for the child;
 - (e) a suggested visitation plan for the child;
 - (f) a statement of the child's special needs and how they may be met; and
 - (g) the identity and location of the child's siblings and statement of steps required to maintain contact between the siblings and reunify the family.
 - (5) if reunification efforts are not to continue, reasons shall be specifically given in the report.
 - (6) The GAL for the child may also prepare a dispositional report to assist the Court in reaching for a disposition that will best serve the needs of the child. Copies of the recommendations of the GAL shall be provided to all parties and pro se parties and their counsel by 5:00 PM on the Friday preceding the adjudication.
 - (7) The Court will not review the dispositional report prior to the adjudication hearing unless the parties have settled all adjudication issues or unless the parties otherwise agree.

15. Stipulated Dispositions

- (a) Before accepting a stipulated disposition, the Court shall inquire of the parties in open court to determine that they understand the contents of the stipulation and its consequences; and that they voluntarily consent to its terms.
- (b) The Court's finding shall be set forth in the record. A party's nonresistance to entry shall be acceptable in the Court's discretion.

16. Review of Cases

- (a) **Scheduling of Reviews:** The Court shall conduct an intensive review of each case, as provided by statute. The Court may set a review hearing for any case at any time, on its own motion, or upon motion of any party. When possible, notice of the review hearing shall be given in open Court at the end of the prior hearing.
- (b) **Notice:** Unless previously set in open Court, the Clerk shall mail a notice of hearing at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date set for the review hearing to such of the following persons as may be involved in the case: the parents or their respective attorneys, the child, if he/she will be twelve (12) years of age or more at the time of the review, the child's GAL, the child's Attorney, the foster parents or other caretakers and any other person or agency specified by the Court Order.
- (c) **Court Summary and Objections:** The DSS Attorney shall deliver a written Court Summary to all counsel, unrepresented parties, and the GAL office at least fourteen (14) days prior to the review hearing which summarizes the progress in the case since the last hearing and DSS's recommendations. Each party shall deliver in writing to the DSS Attorney and all other parties any and all objections or additions to the DSS Summary by 1:00 PM on the Friday preceding review hearing.
- (d) **Burden:** The party who files any additions and/or objections bears the burden of producing evidence at the subsequent review hearing.
- (e) **Service:** Any objections or additions shall be served upon all parties either by hand delivery, mail, delivery to DSS and GAL mailboxes in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, facsimile or by placement in counsel's mailbox housed in the vault of the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court. If service is rendered by mail, then an additional three (3) days shall be added in order to perfect timely service.
- (f) **Periodic Reviews:** If DSS is not relieved of court-ordered responsibility, the case shall be re-docketed for further review pursuant to statute.
- (g) **Preparations of Order:** The DSS Attorney must prepare a proposed order conforming with N.C.G.S. 7B-906.

17. Permanency Planning Hearings

- (a) **Calendaring:** The Court shall conduct an intensive permanency planning hearing of each case, as provided by statute. The Court may set a permanency planning hearing for any case at any time, on its own motion or upon motion by any party. Notice of the permanency planning hearing may be given in open Court at the end of the prior hearing.
- (b) **Notice:** Unless previously set in open court, the Clerk shall mail a notice of the hearing at least thirty (30) days prior to the date set for the review hearing, to such of the following persons as may be involved in the case: the parents or their respective attorneys, the child, if he/she will be twelve (12) years of age or more at the time of the review, the child's GAL, the child's Attorney, the foster parents or other caretakers, and any other person or agency specified by Court Order.
- (c) **Timeliness:** In a permanency planning hearing held pursuant to N.C.G.S. 7B-907, the hearing shall be timely if held at the Judge's next session after the cease reunification order has been entered in open Court. The Court summaries and objections previously filed shall remain in effect for the prehearing conference. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the holding of joint review and permanency planning hearings. However, a permanency planning hearing shall be designated either in the Court's previous order or by notice to all counsel and/or pro se parties, unless notice is waived by the parties.
- (d) **Court Summaries:** In a permanency planning hearing held pursuant to N.C.G.S. 7B-907, the DSS Attorney shall deliver a written Court Summary to all counsel, unrepresented parties and the GAL Office at least fourteen (14) days prior to the review hearing which summarizes the progress in the case since the last hearing and DSS's recommendations. Each party shall deliver in writing to the DSS Attorney and all other parties any and all objections or additions to the DSS Summary by 1:00 PM on the Friday preceding the hearing date.
- (e) **Rescheduling:** If the permanent plan has not been implemented, the case shall be re-docketed for further permanency planning hearing pursuant to statute.
- (f) **Preparation of Order:** The DSS Attorney must prepare a proposed order conforming to N.C.G.S. 7B-907.

18. Reasonable Efforts

At every disposition or required hearing, in order to assist the Court in determining whether reasonable efforts were used to prevent or eliminate the need for foster care, DSS shall present evidence as to the need for services in the following areas, the efforts

made to provide those services and the reason that services in a particular area were not provided:

- (a) General public assistance programs;
- (b) Health services;
- (c) Crisis counseling;
- (d) Emergency caretaker or homemaker services;
- (e) Emergency shelter;
- (f) Cash assistance or goods to provide for the essential needs of the child on a temporary basis;
- (g) Counseling services;
- (h) Homemaker/chore services;
- (i) Daycare;
- (j) Parent training;
- (k) Transportation;
- (l) Visitation between parents or caretakers and child as frequently as possible;
- (m) Employment and training support services;
- (n) Housing and home improvement services;
- (o) Nutrition services;
- (p) Education services; and
- (q) Permanency Planning.

19. Distribution of DSS Orders

The Clerk of Superior Court shall mail to each parent's attorney a copy of the disposition order and any review orders entered thereafter until the case is closed in accordance with Rule 16(e).

20. Pre-Hearing Conference Orders

- (a) There shall be a pre-hearing conference in abuse, neglect, or dependency and termination of parental rights cases conducted prior to the following types of hearings:
 - (1) Adjudication/Disposition Hearing;
 - (2) 90-Day Permanency Hearing;
 - (3) 6-Month Permanency Planning Hearing;
 - (4) Termination of Parental Rights Hearing; and
 - (5) Post Termination of Parental Rights Review Hearing
- (b) The above hearings may not be waived unless counsel for all parties so stipulate in writing, and the Court approves the stipulation. Counsel shall be required to conduct a full, frank, and complete discussion of all settlement possibilities at the time of the conference, and clients shall either be consulted in advance of the conference or available for consultation at the time of the conference.

- (c) A Pre-Hearing Conference Order designating the type of hearing in substance as shown on the attached form shall be executed by counsel for the parties and filed with the Court on or before the scheduled hearing date. Preparation of said order shall be the responsibility of counsel for the Department of Social Services.

21. Et. Seq. Reserved for Future Rules

Effective Date: These Rules shall apply to all petitions filed on or after March 1, 2006, and shall apply to all pending matters as of April 15, 2006.