CHILD WELFARE SERVICES CASE FLOW

HOTLINE receives report of abuse / neglect

→ CLOSE

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE SERVICES (IRS)

- Imminent danger: 2 hour response time

INITIAL SERVICES (IS)

- *Level I:* 5 day response time
- *Level II and III:* 10 day response time

**Can provide Brief Services up to maximum of 45 days*

→ CLOSE

POLINSKY CHILDREN'S CENTER

- Child in custody

→ Assessed and released without further action

COURT INTERVENTION

INITIAL INVESTIGATION

- County Counsel screens petition prior to filing if necessary
- 48-hour deadline to file petition if child is in custody
- Child must be seen 2-3x in first 30 days

VOLUNTARY SERVICES

- Limit to 12 months
- Can be family maintenance or family reunification

→ CLOSE

DETENTION HEARING

- Occurs morning of following workday after petition was filed
- Objective is to determine that there is enough evidence to keep child in custody until the Court can make a "true finding" or dismiss the petition

→ Dismissal of petition

JURISDICTIONAL HEARING

- Occurs about 21 days after detention
- Objective is to determine truth of the petition / risk to the child
- Court rules that petition is true ("true finding") and child needs Court protection, or that petition is not true and child does not need Court protection (dismissal)
- Disposition orders and declaration of dependency can be made at time of true finding or deferred to a Disposition Hearing
- *TRIAL if jurisdiction is contested*

→ Dismissal of petition

DISPOSITION HEARING

- Disposition addresses placement, protective orders, visitation, and services
- Child is declared a "dependent", or not (if not, Court orders Voluntary Services)
- *TRIAL if dispositional recommendations are contested*

CONTINUING SERVICES

- Depending upon disposition, family receives family maintenance (own home) or family reunification (out-of-home) services for up to 18 months
- Court reviews case ("Review Hearing") every 6 months

→ Terminate jurisdiction

PERMANENT PLAN

- A permanent plan for Long Term Foster Care, Guardianship, or Adoption must be made if jurisdiction is not terminated at the end of the family maintenance or family reunification period