

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF FORSYTH COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

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JUVENILE COURT INTERNAL OPERATING PROCEDURE 01-09
ORDER REGARDING DEPRIVATION CASES

The 30-day case plans required to be presented to the Court by the Division of Family and Children Services pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-11-58 (b) shall be submitted to the Court according to the following guidelines:

1. Every effort will be made to have 30-day case plans submitted within 30 days of the date of removal of a child from the home; however, the Forsyth County Department of Family and Children Services (DFACS) should not submit case plans, unless specifically ordered to do so, until after the order of disposition has been entered by the Court;
2. In the event the adjudicatory and dispositional hearings have been continued beyond the times when they were initially set, case plans shall be submitted within 15 days of the date of the Court's oral announcement of an order of adjudication and disposition after hearing;
3. Case plans may address all areas in which a parent may need improvement; however, the Court may only require that those goals and steps directly related to the reason for removal be completed before returning custody of the children. For example, obtaining a Graduate Equivalency Diploma may be a legitimate goal in a case plan, but the Court will not refuse to return the children if such a goal is not completed unless that goal is directly related to the reason the children were removed from the parent's care.

4. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-11-58 (b)(c) and (j), DFACS shall submit written reports containing the information required by statute at each 6 month review of a case by Citizen's Panel or the Court. For all Panel Reviews, the report shall be submitted on the Monday before the Panel Review on the following Friday. If the Monday preceding the Panel Review is a holiday for the Department or the Court, then all such information should be delivered to the Judge's office by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday preceding the review.

SO ORDERED, this 18th day of September, 2001.

J. Russell Jackson, Judge
Juvenile Court of Forsyth County
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit