

**CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE OR SUPERVISION (CHINS)**  
Abuse/Neglect, Truant, or Beyond Control of Parents

*Emergency Track*

*Non-Emergency Track*

**POLICE/DCF Intervention**

**EMERGENCY CARE ORDER**  
Order based on affidavit  
DCF Custody or Conditional Custody to parent

**Within 72 Hours**

**TEMPORARY CARE HEARING**  
Petition Filed by State's Attorney  
TEMPORARY CARE ORDER 33 V.S.A. § 5308:  
Custody returned to parent OR transferred to noncustodial parent, kin, fictive kin, OR to DCF  
Parentage, Services and visitation addressed

**PETITION Filed by State's Attorney**

**PRELIMINARY HEARING**

**PRETRIAL HEARING**  
within 15 days of Temporary Care or Preliminary Hearing

**MERITS HEARING (adjudication within 60 days of DCF custody)**  
No Finding of CHINS → Case dismissed  
Finding of CHINS → Disposition Case Plan ordered

Initial Case Plan filed by DCF within 60 days of child's removal from home

**Disposition Case Plan Filed by DCF (7 business days before the scheduled disposition hearing)**

**DISPOSITION HEARING (35 days after Merits)**  
Custody decided  
Case Plan and Permanency Goal established as well as parent child contact, sibling contact and contact with relative

**POST DISPOSITION REVIEW HEARING (60 days after disposition)**

**PERMANENCY HEARING**  
Within 12 months of placement in DCF custody

- REUNIFICATION**  
Custody returned to parent
- Termination of Parental Rights  
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**ADOPTION**
- PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP**
- APPLA**  
Long Term Substitute Care