

## Juvenile Court (CINA)

### ***Hearings***

What	When (a guideline)	Description/Notes
Pre/post-removal conference	1-3 days after removal	
Removal Hearing	W/in 10 days after removal	Is the removal still appropriate at the time of the hearing?
Adjudication Hearing	6 weeks after removal	To determine whether the child is in need of the court's assistance
Dispositional Hearing	10 weeks after removal	To determine placement
Review Hearing	3-6 months after removal	This is like a progress report; how are things going?
Permanency Hearing	If the child is 3+, this hearing is held 6-12 months after removal	Can the child(ren) be safely returned to the parent(s)?

### ***Acronyms***

BHIS	Behavioral Health Intervention Services
CASA	Court Appointed Special Advocate (for the child(ren))
CINA	Child in Need of Assistance
DHS	Department of Human Services
FSRP	Family Safety Risk and Permanency Services
FTDM or FTM	Family Team Decision Making (sometimes referred to as a FTM or Family Team Meeting)
GAL	Guardian ad Litem (Child's attorney)
PRC	Pre- or Post-removal conference
SWCM	Social Work Case Manager (a/k/a SW2)

## ***Glossary – Juvenile (CINA)<sup>1</sup>***

Adjudication:	The hearing following the removal hearing, where the court decides if the child(ren) is in need of the court’s assistance. This occurs within six (6) weeks after removal.
Case Plan:	If the child is found to be a child in need of assistance (“CINA”), the Department of Human Services (“DHS”) will put together a case plan outlining what needs to happen in order for the children to return home. This may include things like therapy, “clean” random drug tests, education regarding domestic violence, etc.
Child Abuse:	Any non-accidental physical injury to the child.
Court Order:	Legal document that sets out the court’s ruling either on a hearing or written motions.
Denial of Critical Care:	When a child is denied adequate food, shelter, clothing, or other care necessary to the child’s health and welfare.
Depositions:	Questions verbally asked by an attorney, answered under oath, and recorded by a court reporter. They have the same weight as testimony given in court.
Disposition:	The hearing following Adjudication, where the court decides where the child will live during the course of the juvenile case. This occurs within ten (10) weeks after removal.
Family Team Meeting:	Sometimes referred to as a Family Team Decision Meeting (“FTM” or “FTDM”), this is a confidential meeting that brings together everyone involved in the case (except the judge) to work together to develop or modify plans designed to work towards reunification. Topics may include visitation, therapy, drug testing, etc.
Guardian ad Litem:	Sometimes shortened to GAL, this is a lawyer who represents the child’s legal interests. The focus of the GAL is on the child’s best interests. If the child is older, s/he may also have an attorney to represent his/her wishes (even if those are different from the GAL’s).

---

<sup>1</sup> This is based off the Juvenile Court’s packet (available online) but I have modified it.

Hearing:	Formal court procedure in front of a judge, usually held in a courtroom (although some hearings may be held via telephone).
Judge:	Iowa follows a “one family, one judge” philosophy. This means that barring an emergency or unusual situation, you will <i>always</i> have the same judge and be in the same courtroom.
Juvenile Court:	The court that hears cases related to child welfare (CINA) and/or delinquency.
Lack of Supervision:	Failing to supervise the child to the extent that there is a danger of the child suffering significant harm, injury, or death.
Minor Children:	Children under the age of 18.
Permanency:	The Permanency Hearing is at the end, and is the hearing where the judge makes a final decision regarding the child’s placement going forward.
Petition:	A formal, written request that the court take specific judicial action.
Removal:	This is when the child is removed from the care of the parent(s) by DHS. This may be by consent (e.g., the parent agrees that s/he cannot adequately care for the child) or by order (e.g., the child is in imminent danger). There is a removal conference within 1-3 days after removal, and a removal hearing within 10-days after removal.
Review Hearings:	The review hearing is a “check in” to see how things are going. There may be more than one, and the first one typically occurs 3-6 months after removal.
Testimony:	Answering questions under oath, whether in depositions or court.

**This is general information, not intended as legal advice. If you have questions, please ask your attorney.**

Jean M. Baker, J.D.  
[jean@jeanmbaker.com](mailto:jean@jeanmbaker.com)  
515-778-0017