

**IN THE JUVENILE COURTS OF THE APPALACHIAN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA**

INTERNAL OPERATING PROCEDURE 2000-40

IN RE: PROCEDURE UPON TAKING CUSTODY OF CHILDREN

ORDER

In order to comply with the statutory requirements of O.C.G.A. § 15-11-41, it is hereby ordered that the following procedure be implemented by all involved agencies and individuals:

1. The Department of Family and Children Services, hereinafter known as “DFACS”, shall submit to the Court a written report within 30 days of removal of the child from the home. This report shall include a plan for reunification or a statement as to why reunification is inappropriate. The contents of this report shall be determined at a meeting to be held by DFACS and the parents, when available. The parents shall be given written notice of the meeting at least five days in advance and shall be advised that the report will be submitted to become an order of the Court.
2. Within 90 days of entering the dispositional order of custody with DFACS, but no later than 6 months following the child’s placement, a judicial review shall be conducted by the Citizen Review Panel. The panel shall transmit its report, including its findings and recommendations, along with the department’s proposed revised permanency plan to the Court and the parents within five days after the review.
3. Each case shall be subsequently reviewed every 6 months by the Citizen Review Panel subject to adjustments when requests for judicial review are granted, until reunification occurs or the Court orders reunification services to cease.

So ORDERED, this _____ day of March, 2000.

William L. Reilly, Chief Judge
Juvenile Courts
Appalachian Judicial Circuit

Brenda S. Weaver, Chief Judge
Superior Courts
Appalachian Judicial Circuit