

AT-A-GLANCE

The New Jersey Courts is a statewide system made up of 15 vicinages (counties or groupings of counties) and the Administrative Office of the Courts, located in Trenton, which develops and implements policy, procedures and best practices in the vicinages.



New Jersey Courts

Independence • Integrity • Fairness • Quality Service

Vicinage Family Division Contacts

Atlantic/Cape May 609-402-0100, ext. 47467 609-402-0100, ext. 47556	Monmouth 732-358-8700, ext. 87908
Bergen 201-221-0700, ext. 25190	Morris/Sussex 862-397-5700, ext. 75144
Burlington 609-288-9500, ext. 38830	Passaic 973-653-2910, ext. 24614
Camden 856-650-9100, ext. 43490	Union 908-787-1650, ext. 21310
Essex 973-776-9300, ext. 56667	Somerset/ Hunterdon/Warren 908-332-7700, ext. 13730 908-824-9750, ext. 13830
Hudson 201-748-4400, ext. 60810	908-750-8100, ext. 13930
Mercer 609-571-4200, ext. 74380	Ocean 732-504-0700, ext. 64120
Middlesex 732-645-4300, ext. 88570	Cumberland/ Gloucester/Salem 856-878-5050, ext. 15720 856-878-5050, ext. 15590 856-878-5050, ext. 15771
AOC Family Practice 609-815-2900, ext. 55350	

Common Court Proceedings in Child Abuse or Neglect Cases

Order to Show Cause (OSC) is the first court hearing in a case. The child welfare agency must show cause for custody and protective services, possibly resulting in the placement of a child.

Case Management Conference (CMC) is a hearing to ensure that the defendants have representation and to prepare for a fact finding in the absence of a stipulation.

Fact-Finding is a hearing to determine if a child has been abused or neglected by the defendant(s), or to determine if the child is at imminent risk of serious harm in the defendants' custody.

Compliance Review is a hearing to inform the court of progress being made by all parties toward meeting the service plan goals.

Permanency Hearing is an annual hearing to approve a permanent plan for a child.

Who's Who in the Courthouse?

Assignment Judge (AJ): Highest ranking judge designated by the Chief Justice to oversee the vicinage

Trial Court Administrator (TCA): Highest ranking staff executive in the vicinage in charge of all court operations under the direction of the Assignment Judge and the Administrative Director

Family Presiding Judge (PJ): Oversees administration of Family Division and presides over cases

Family Judges (including Children in Court Judges): Presides over cases in the Family Division

Family Division Manager (FDM): Oversees case management and staff in the Family Division

Assistant Family Division Manager (AFDM): Assists Family Division Manager in oversight of case management and staff in the Family Division, may be specific to a certain case type or county

Team Leader: Supervises court staff in the daily management of cases

Probation Officer and Court Clerk: Court staff that manage cases on a daily basis

CPR Board: Court volunteers that conduct a 45 day review of children in placement and make recommendations to the judge

What is ASFA?

The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) is a federal foster care law that prioritizes the safety, health and permanency of children. ASFA, which has been incorporated into NJ statute, mandates that certain requirements must be met in order for a child to receive subsidies from the federal government.

A Court Order Requires Action!

NJ Court Rule 1:10-3.

A court order is a document issued by a judge that requires action - an appearance in court, the production of a document or report, etc.

Child Welfare Dockets

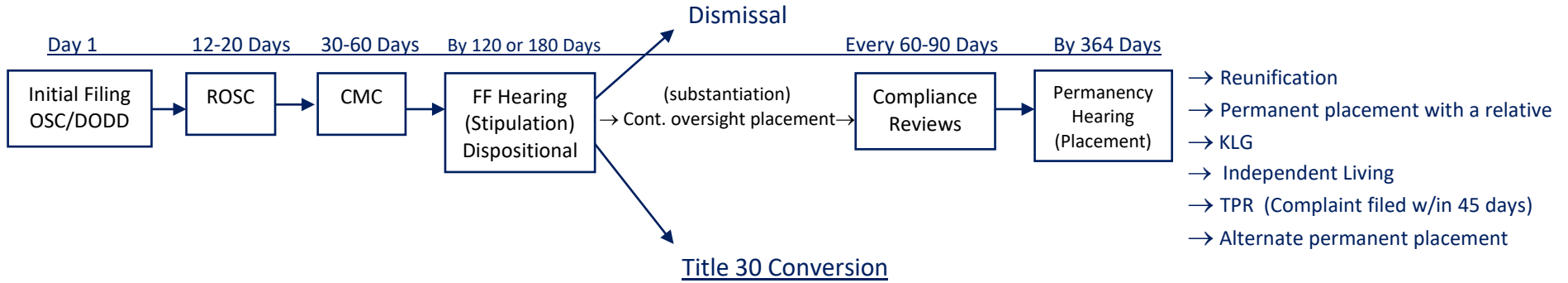
- **FC (Family Children Placement) docket:**
All children in out-of-home placements.
- **FN (Child Protection) docket:**
Title 9/Title 30 complaint filed.
- **FG (Termination of Parental Rights) docket:**
Title 30 termination of parental rights complaint filed.
- **FL (Kinship Legal Guardianship) docket:**
Kinship legal guardianship petition filed.

Children In Court TIMELINE

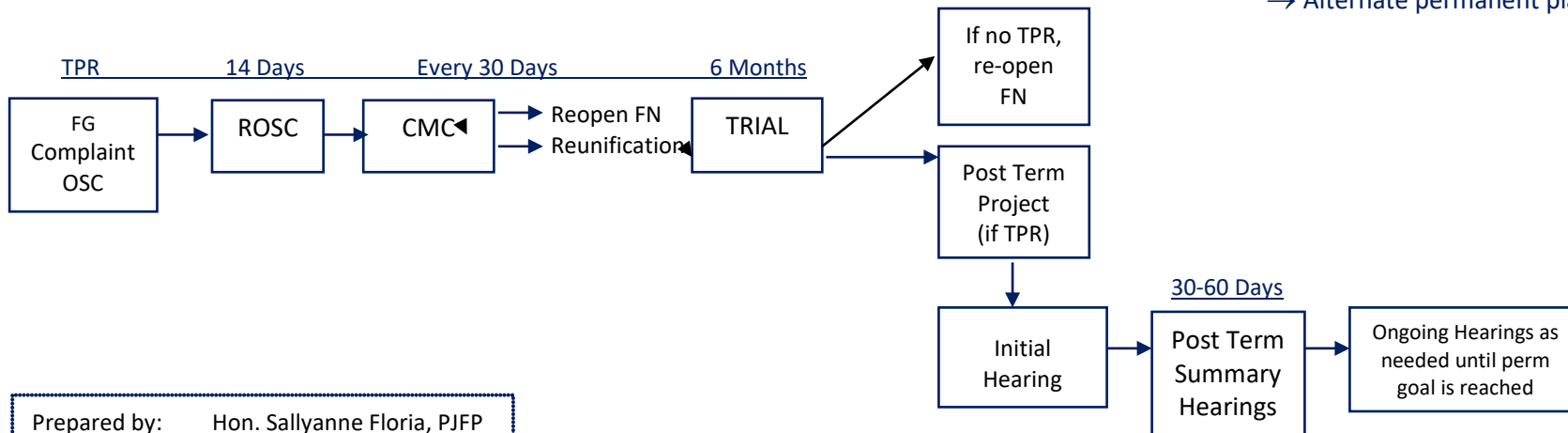
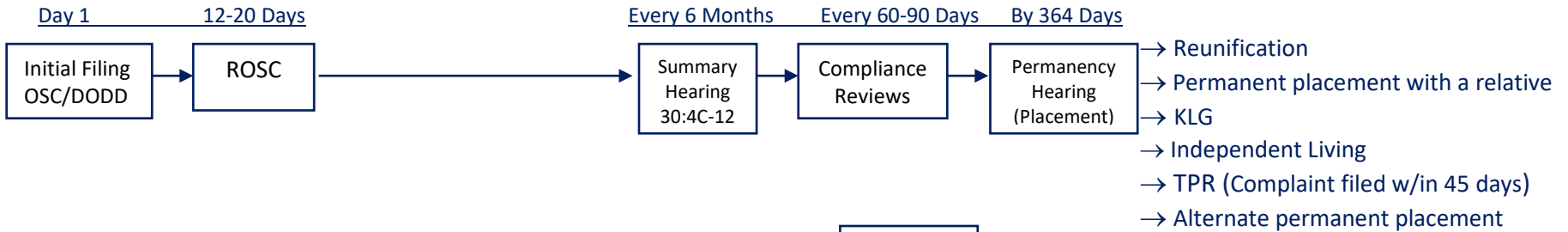
Title 9 and **Title 30** are the statutes that guide child welfare and termination of parental rights cases. The circumstances of the case dictate whether the case will be filed under Title 9 or Title 30.

- KEY**
- CMC = Case Management Conference
 - KLG = Kinship Legal Guardianship
 - OSC = Order to Show Cause
 - ROSC = Return on the Order to Show Cause (w/in 10 days of the OSC)
 - TPR = Termination of Parental Rights

Title 9



Title 30



Prepared by: Hon. Sallyanne Floria, PJFP
 Hon. David B. Katz, JSC
 October 1, 2012