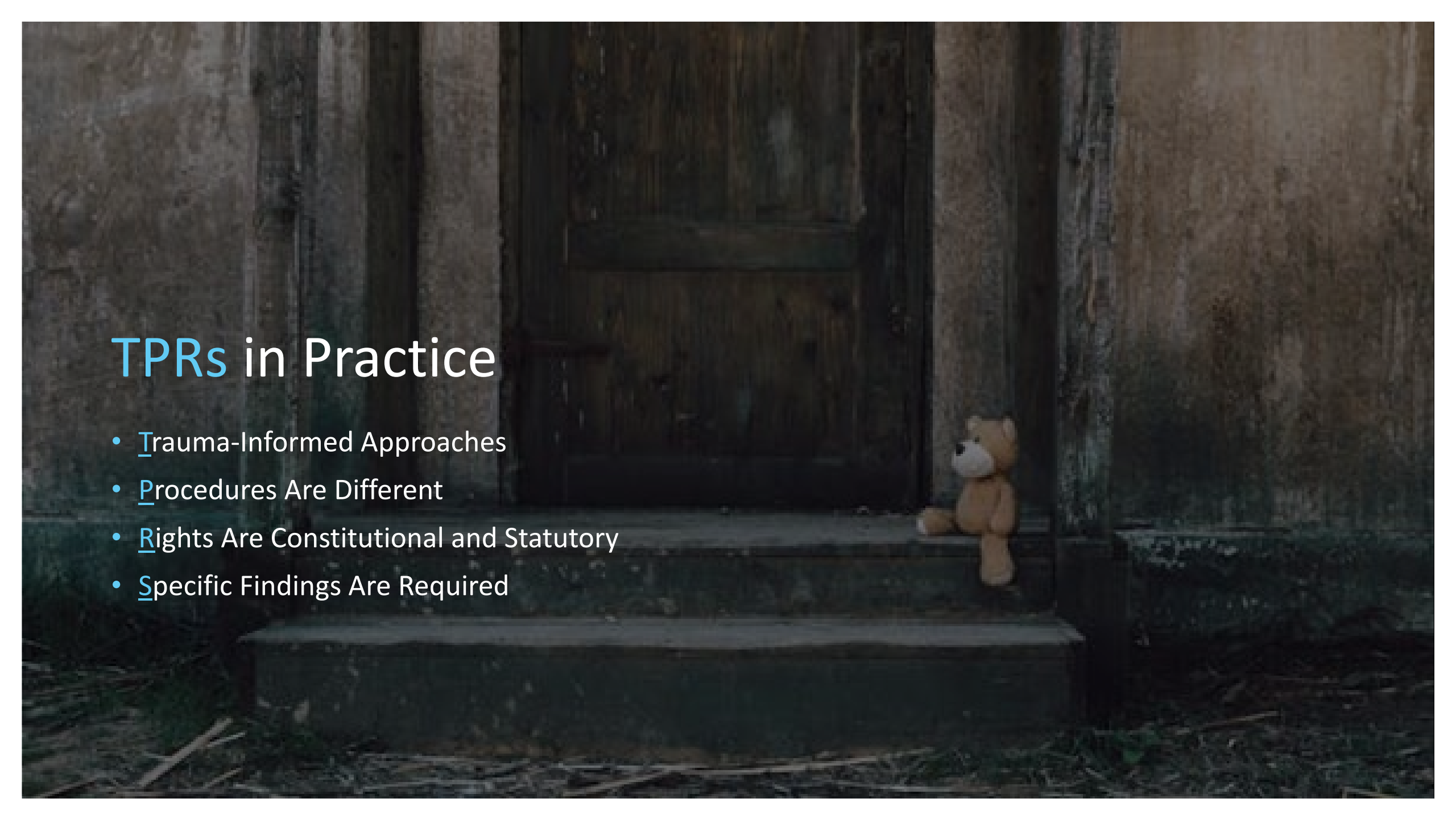


# Disposition

---

The Child's Best Interests

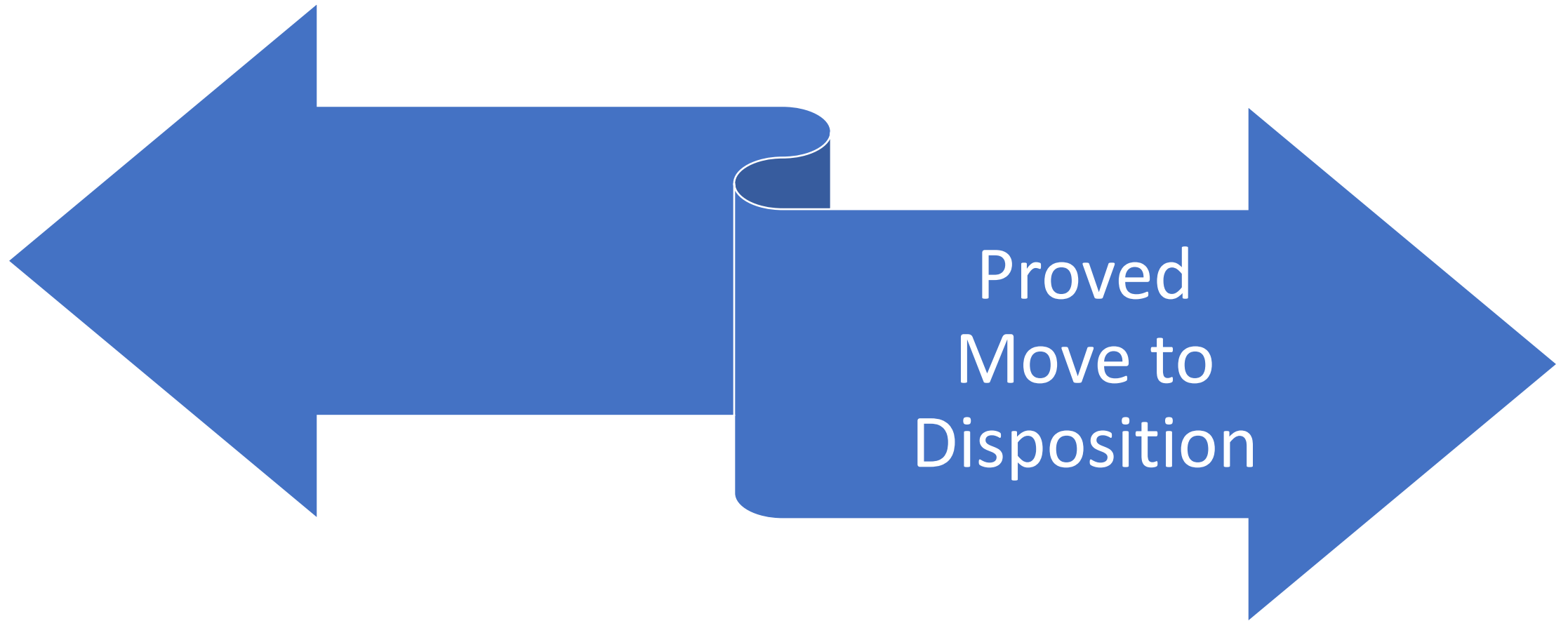


A photograph of a small, brown teddy bear sitting on a wooden step in front of a dark, weathered door. The bear is looking towards the left. The door is made of dark wood and has a small, light-colored patch in the center. The walls on either side of the door are made of rough, textured material, possibly stone or plaster. The ground in front of the door is covered with dry grass and twigs.

# TPRs in Practice

- Trauma-Informed Approaches
- Procedures Are Different
- Rights Are Constitutional and Statutory
- Specific Findings Are Required

# Adjudication = Step 1



# Disposition = Step 2



**As important as adjudication**



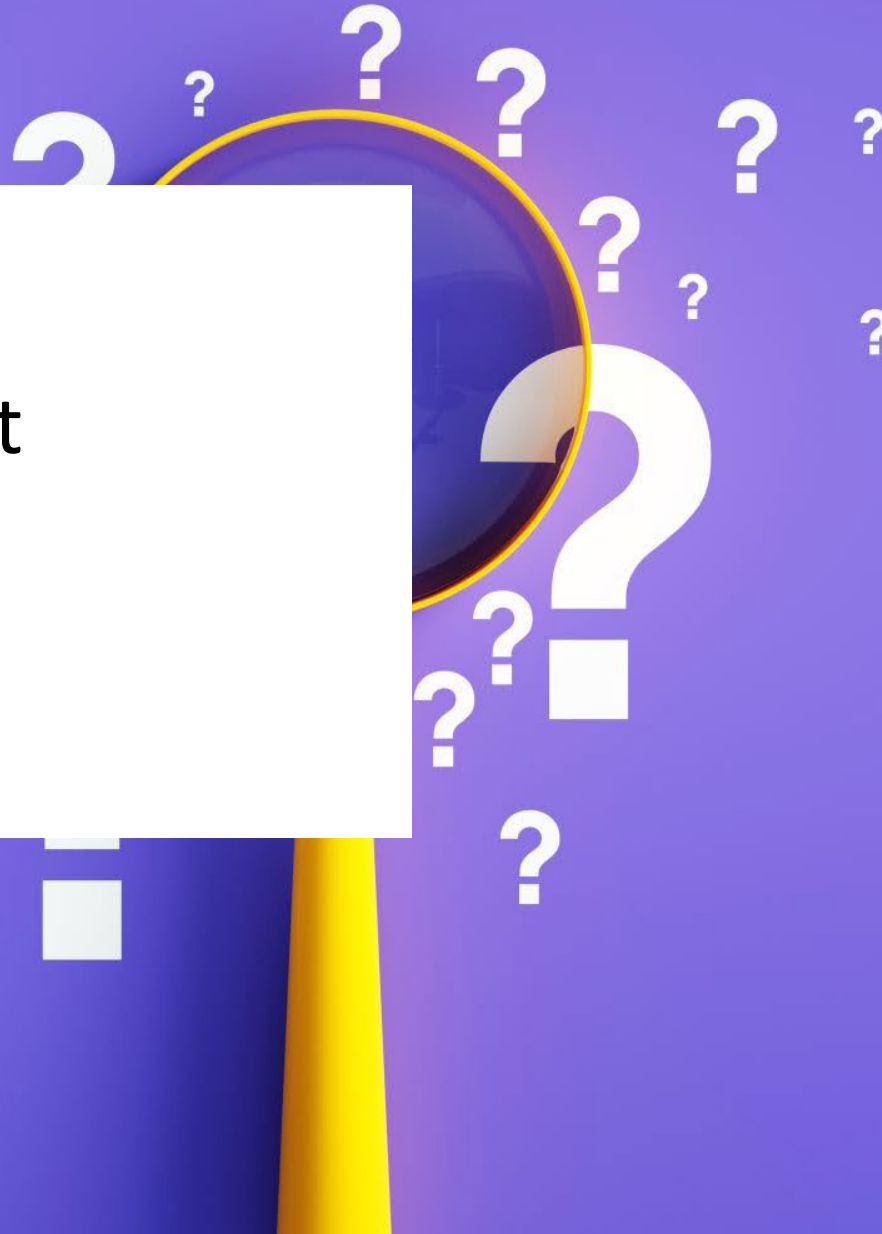
**Immediately or next day (remember 90 day clock)**



What's the Purpose of the TPR?

What are your  
concerns about  
granting TPR?

---

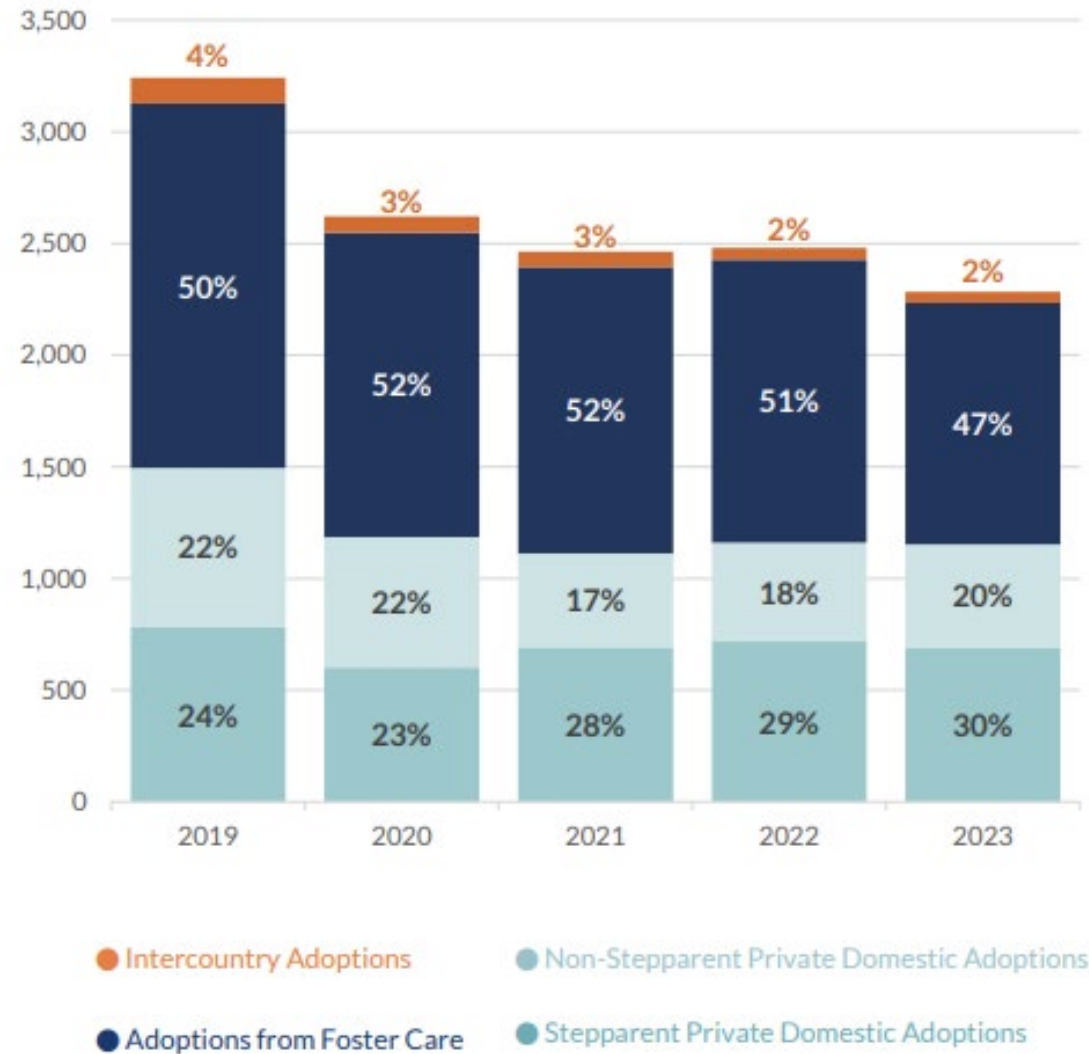


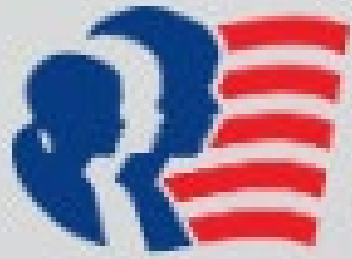
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What are your concerns about denying TPR?



## Total Adoptions





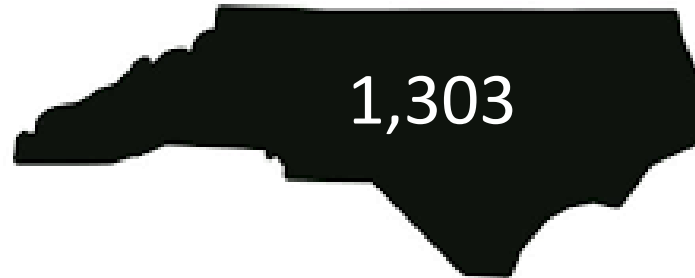
# Children's Bureau

An Office of the Administration for Children & Families

2,690  
waiting

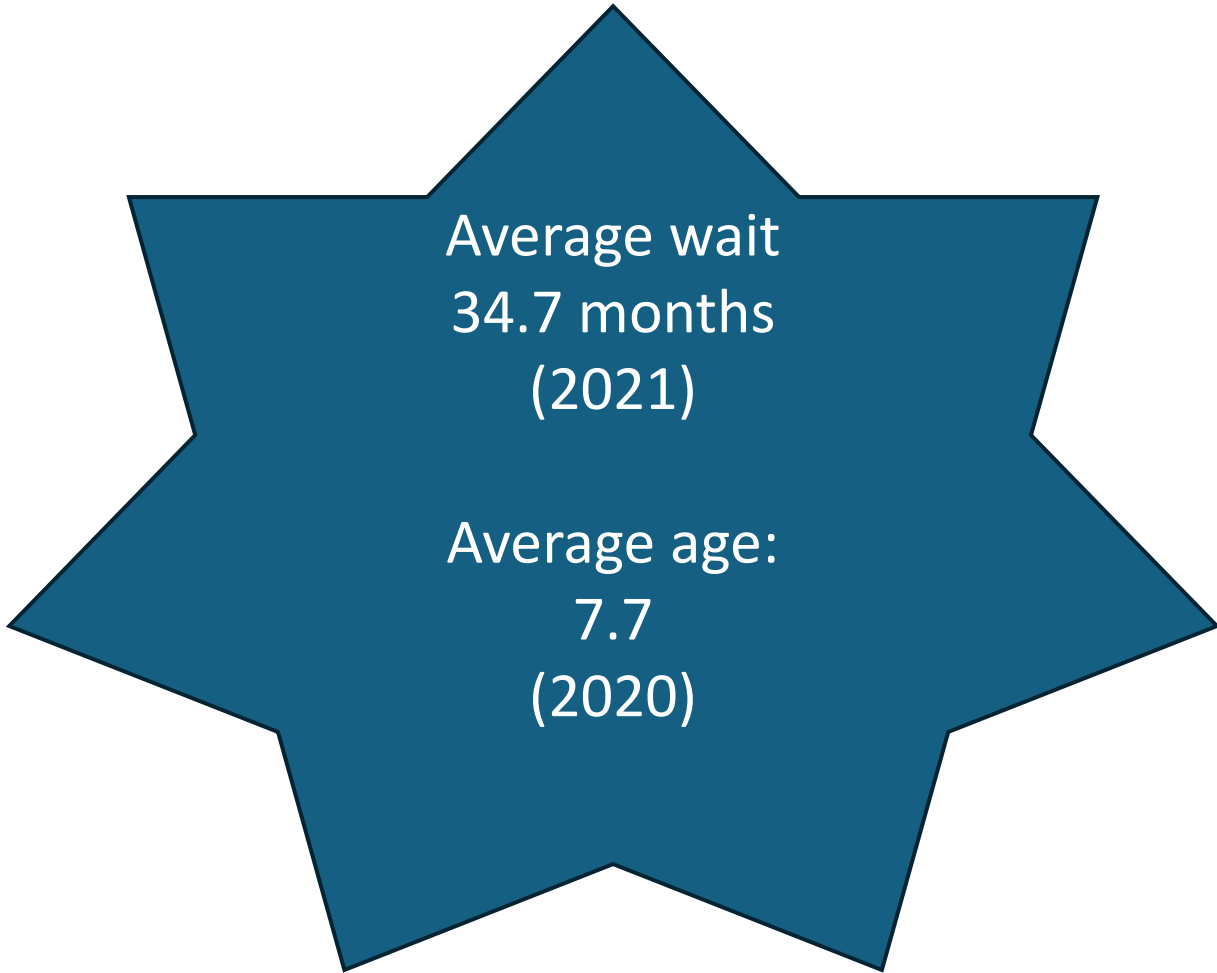
## Adoption Data

2022



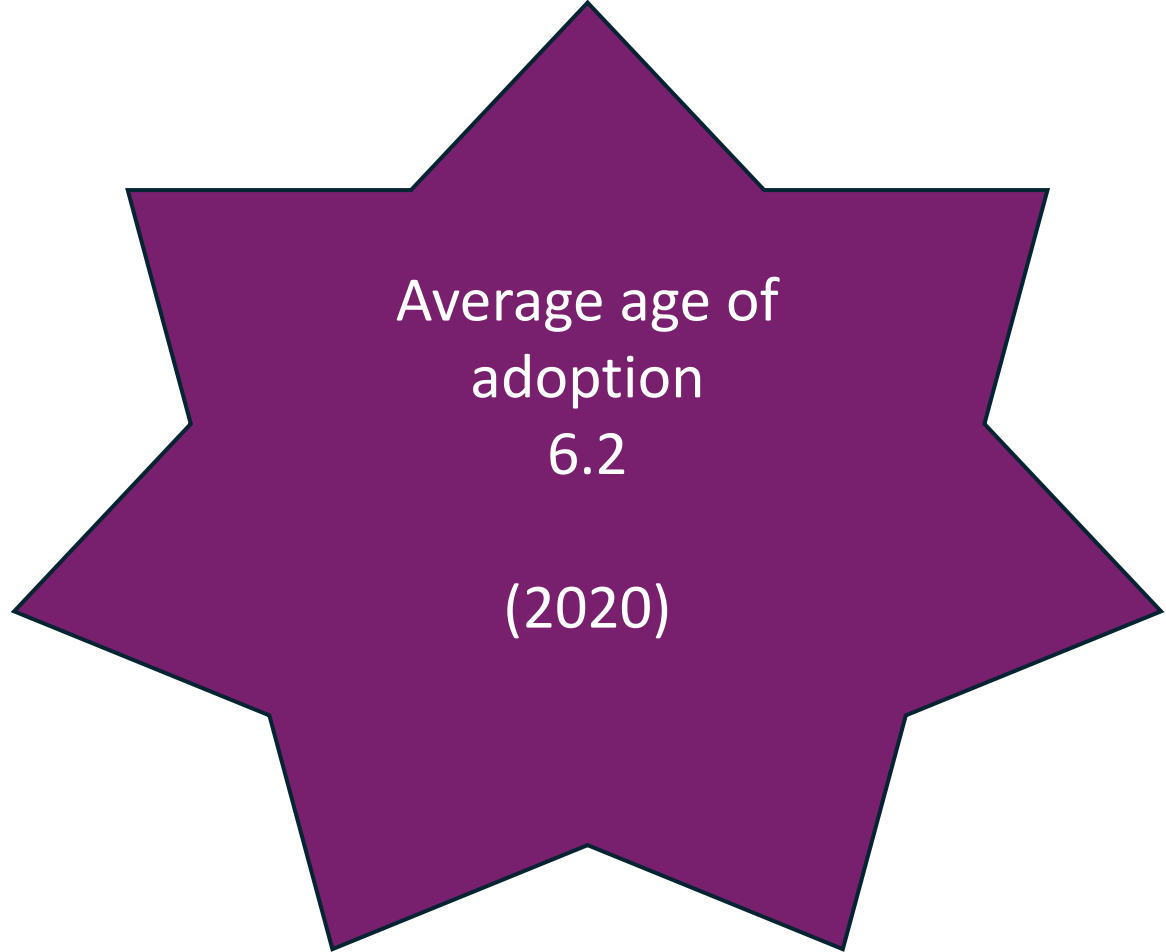
26.6% of children  
exiting foster care

# Child Welfare League of America



Average wait  
34.7 months  
(2021)

Average age:  
7.7  
(2020)



Average age of  
adoption  
6.2

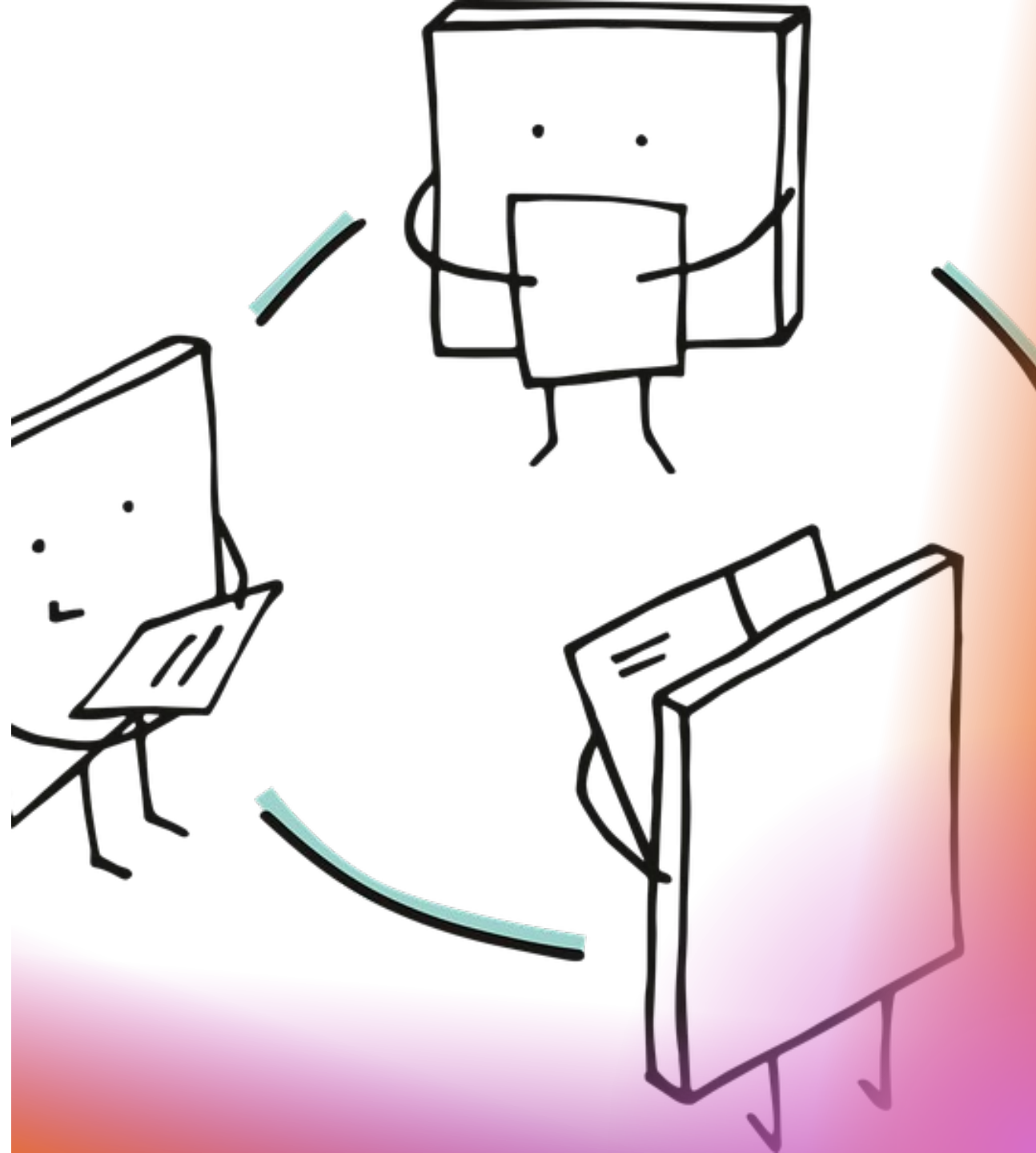
(2020)

# % children adopted by race

| State             | Year | Alaska<br>Native /<br>American<br>Indian-<br>NH (%) | Asian-<br>NH<br>(%) | Black-<br>NH<br>(%) | Native<br>Hawaiian<br>/ Other<br>Pacific<br>Islander-<br>NH (%) | Hispanic<br>(%) | White-<br>NH<br>(%) | Two or<br>More<br>Races-<br>NH (%) | Unknown<br>(%) |
|-------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| North<br>Carolina | 2021 | 1.3                                                 | 0.2                 | 19.7                | 0.2                                                             | 9.8             | 54.5                | 14.3                               | 0.0            |

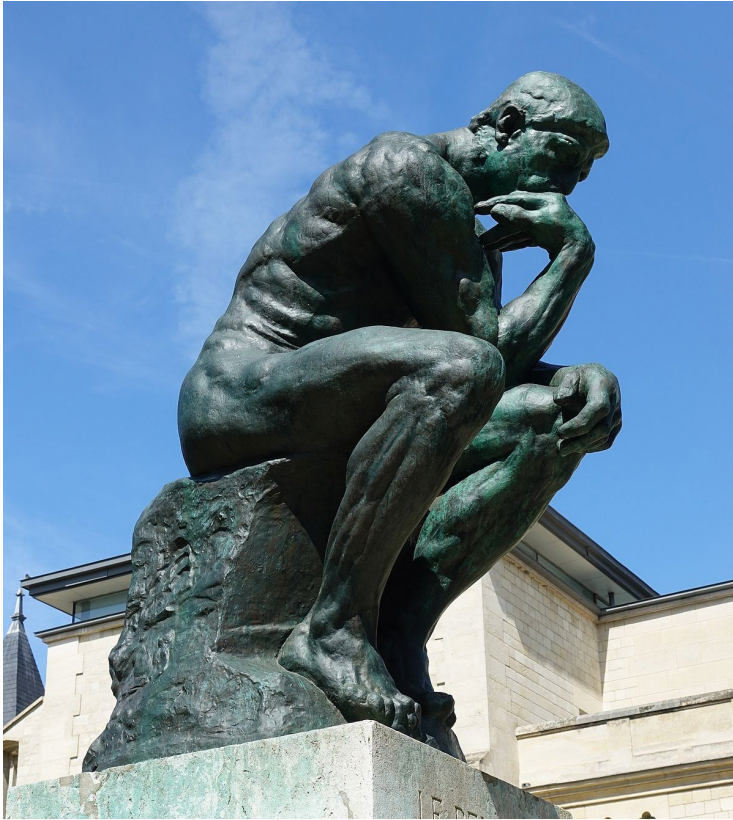
# The Hearing

- Informal
- No burden of proof on any party
- Relevant, reliable, necessary



# *Authority / Discretion of the Judge*

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- **Determine admissibility**
- **Determine credibility**
- **Draw inferences**
- **Assign weight**
- **Question witnesses**

G.S. 7B-1110(a)

# Factors

- (1) The age of the juvenile.
- (2) The likelihood of adoption of the juvenile.
- (3) Whether the termination of parental rights will aid in the accomplishment of the permanent plan for the juvenile.
- (4) The bond between the juvenile and the parent.
- (5) The quality of the relationship between the juvenile and the proposed adoptive parent, guardian, custodian, or other permanent placement.
- (6) Any relevant consideration.



# Questions for you

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- Rank them in order of priority for you and explain why
- What do you want to know for each factor
- Does the factor matter differently if it's an agency vs. private TPR



Did you consider the purpose of the TPR in your discussion?



# Questions for you

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- What are other relevant factors you want to know?
- What are you hearing from parties about other relevant factors?



Did you consider the purpose of the TPR in your discussion?

What Findings Do You Have  
to Make?

# Decision

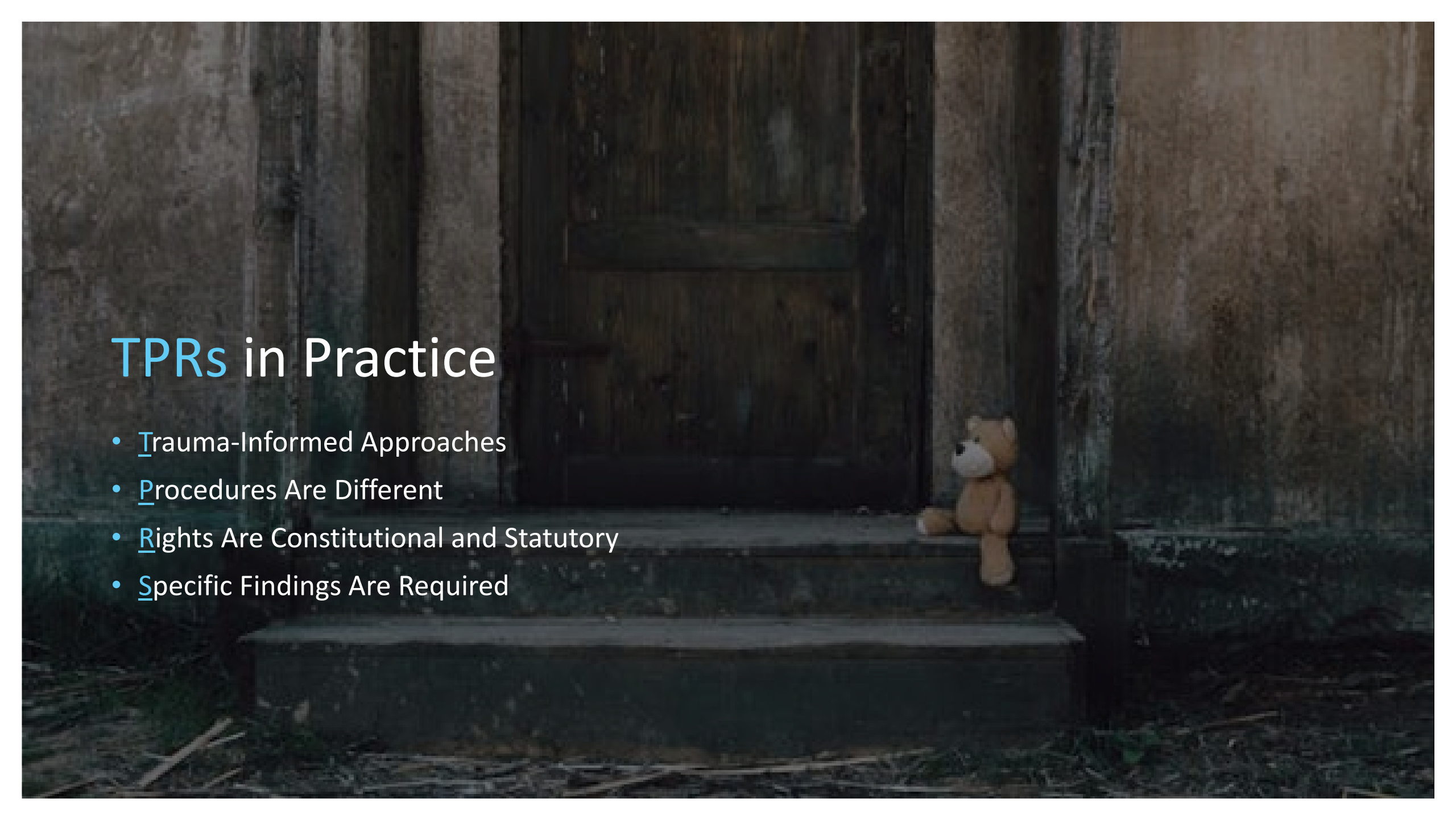
**DENY**  
**TPR**

Not in Best  
Interests



Decision



A photograph of a small, brown teddy bear sitting on a wooden step in front of a dark, weathered door. The bear is looking towards the left. The door is made of dark wood and has a small, light-colored patch in the center. The walls on either side of the door are made of rough, textured material, possibly stone or plaster. The ground in front of the door is covered with dry grass and twigs.

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