

FAMILY COURT TIME STANDARDS

Originally Adopted: September 1999
Amended by the Family Court Advisory Committee: March 2001,
Amended by the Family Court Advisory Committee:
December 2005 Domestic and Juvenile Delinquency/Undisciplined
March 2006 Juvenile Abuse/Neglect/Dependency

1. **Domestic Cases:**

- Unless otherwise specified, “days” are calendar days.
- These time frames represent **maximum** time limits that are “goals.”
- All orders should be filed within 15 days following the conclusion of a hearing. A judge may allow additional time to file an order in complex cases but all orders must be filed within 30 days following the hearing.

For (Permanent) Alimony and Equitable Distribution Matters:

<u>Event:</u>	<u>Time from Filing of Complaint:</u>
a. First Status Conference 120	days
b. Completion of ADR* 210	days
c. Final Pretrial Conference 240	days
d. Start of Trial 270	days
e. Order Entered:	
(1) in 90% of cases	Within 270 days
(2) in 100% of cases	Within 365 days

*Completion of mediation session(s) – not when report is filed

Child Support:

<u>Event:</u>	<u>Time from Filing of Complaint:</u>
a. <u>Temporary</u> orders entered, if requested by one or both parties and do not involve paternity determinations:	
a. in 90% of cases	Within 30 days
b. in 100% of cases	Within 45 days
b. <u>Permanent</u> orders entered:	
a. in 75% of cases	Within 90 days
b. in 90% of cases	Within 180 days
c. in 100% of cases	Within 270 days

Post-Separation Support:

<u>Event:</u>	<u>Time from Filing of Complaint:</u>
Orders entered:	
(1) in 75% of cases	Within 60 days
(2) in 100% of cases	Within 90 days

Child Custody:

<u>Event:</u>	<u>Time from Filing of Complaint:</u>
a. <u>Temporary</u> Orders Entered, if requested by one or both parties:	
(1) in 90% of cases	Within 30 days
(2) in 100% of cases	Within 45 days
b. Mediation Orientation Session Scheduled (in 100% of cases) W	Within 45 days
c. Mediation Sessions(s) Completed:	
(1) in 90% of cases	Within 90 days
(2) in 98% of cases	Within 120 days
(3) in 100% of cases	Within 150 days
d. Orders Entered:	
(1) in 90% of cases	Within 150 days
(2) in 100% of cases	Within 180 days

2. Juvenile Delinquency/Undisciplined Cases:

- Unless otherwise specified, “days” are calendar days and are counted from the date the petition is served on the juvenile.
- These time frames represent maximum time limits that are “goals.” All orders should be entered within 15 days following the conclusion of a hearing. A judge may allow additional time to file an order in complex cases but all orders must be filed within 30 days following the hearing.

Event:

Time from Service on Juvenile:

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------------|
| a. | Adjudicatory Order Entered for Misdemeanor Charges: | |
| | (1) in 90% of cases | Within 60 days |
| | (2) in 100% of cases | Within 90 days |
| b. | Adjudicatory Order Entered for F - I Felony Charges: | |
| | (1) in 70% of cases | Within 60 days |
| | (2) in 90% of cases | Within 90 days |
| | (3) in 100% of cases | Within 120 days |
| c. | Adjudicatory Order Entered for A - E Felony Charges | |
| | (1) in 70% of cases | Within 120 days |
| | (2) in 90% of cases | Within 150 days |
| | (3) in 100% of cases | Within 180 days |
| d. | Dispositional Order Entered | |
| | (1) in 95% of cases | Within 30 days of adjudication |
| | (2) in 100% of cases | Within 60 days of adjudication |

3. Juvenile Abuse/Neglect/Dependency Cases:

- Unless otherwise noted, “Days” are calendar days and are counted from the date the petition is filed.
- Not all of the stages listed below will occur in every case; e.g., the child may not be taken into nonsecure custody or the petition may be dismissed.
- These time frames represent **maximum** time limits that are “goals.” In every case, the child’s best interest is the paramount goal.
- These time frames are intended to be consistent with the Federal Adoption and Safe Families Act provisions and North Carolina statutory provisions.
- All orders should be filed within 15 days following the conclusion of a hearing. A judge may allow additional time to file an order in complex cases but all orders must be filed within 30 days following the hearing.

<u>Event:</u>	<u>Time from Filing of Petition:</u>
a. Nonsecure Custody Order Entered	Same day petition is filed
b. First Nonsecure Custody Hearing	7 days (second nonsecure custody hearing no more than 7 business days after first; subsequent nonsecure custody hearings at intervals of no more than 30 days)
c. Adjudication Hearing Completed (1) in 100% of cases	60 days
d. Disposition Hearing Completed (1) in 100% of cases	90 days
e. First Placement Review Hearing Completed	150 days
f. First Permanency Planning Hearing Completed	330 days
g. Reunification (1) in 75% of cases (2) in 100% of cases	330 days 510 days
h. Implementation of Other Permanent Plan (1) in 90% of cases (2) in 100% of cases	330 days 365 days
i. Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) (1) in 100% of cases	TPR petition/motion filed within 390 days
j. TPR Hearing Completed (1) in 90% of cases (2) in 100% of cases	90 days from filing of TPR petition 180 days from filing of TPR petition

4. All Family Court Cases:

All orders should be filed within **15 days** following the conclusion of a hearing. A judge may allow additional time to file an order following a hearing concerning equitable distribution, abuse and neglect, or termination of parental rights, but in no event shall an order be entered later than **30 days** following the hearing.