

Reimagining Dependency Courts: Juvenile Dependency Differentiated Case Management (DCM) Pilot

The Oregon Judicial Department acknowledges the leadership role it plays creating the culture of the court and justice system as it relates to docket and caseflow management to ensure timely and affordable justice for Oregonians. The OJD has adopted the following overarching principles of caseflow management:

1. The court controls the pace of litigation.
2. The court creates and maintains expectations that events will occur when they are scheduled.
3. The court schedules diverse case types differently and employs differentiated case management techniques where appropriate.
4. The court sets case processing goals and uses consistent data to monitor compliance with the goals.

Adherence to these principles and supporting practices is intended to provide maximum predictability of court procedures and outcomes.

The overarching goal of Reimagining Dependency Courts is to implement court policies and practices to reduce the number of children in foster care and improve permanency outcomes, with a particular focus on children in care more than two years.

To further both the OJD's case flow management principles and the Reimagining Dependency court goal, four Oregon courts are participating in the Reimagining Dependency Courts: Juvenile Dependency Differentiated Case Management (JDDCM) Pilot: Deschutes, Clackamas, Lane, and Polk counties. These counties have identified three goals for this work:

1. Improve outcomes for children and families involved in the dependency court process,
2. Maximize court time, and
3. Efficiently use limited judicial resources.

Oregon's Reimagining Dependency Courts Juvenile Dependency Differentiated Case Management Pilot includes three primary components:

1. Dependency Case Information Sheet
2. Juvenile Dependency Differentiated Case Management Tracks
3. Dependency Court Case Manager

Because judicial resources are limited and dependency cases have varying complexities, issues, and needs, the pilot courts have agreed to develop and implement a consistent, systematic method to screen dependency petitions and apply various case management techniques, levels of judicial oversight and frequency of hearings, ADR interventions, and problem-solving court approaches according to the needs of cases. These components will enable the courts to continually review 1) the court processes and services that impact children and families to

ensure responsiveness and efficiency and 2) timeliness measures to address case processing issues as they arise.

Dependency Case Information Sheet (Family Risks Assessment)

Not all dependency cases need to proceed along the same procedural track or within the same timeframes. The Dependency Court Case Manager will fill out and use the Dependency Case Information Sheet to screen the case and assign it to the appropriate track. By using this triage tool, these courts strive to provide the highest level of judicial services to achieve strong outcomes in dependency cases.

Juvenile Dependency Differentiated Case Management Tracks

The Juvenile Dependency Differentiated Case Management Tracks have been created to integrate statutorily mandated time frames with case flow events and Court policy to promote the fair and efficient management of sensitive juvenile cases. Customized procedural tracks govern each juvenile dependency case type and reflect the steps taken in the majority of cases. Meaningful events throughout the case are included in several tracks to facilitate timely disposition and expedited permanency.

Dependency Court Case Manager

The success of the Juvenile Dependency DCM plan is facilitated by the active role played by the Dependency Court Case Manager. The Dependency Court Case Manager assists the court by:

- screening dependency cases and proposing track assignment
- shepherding matters through the different tracks
- managing cases to ensure adherence to state and federal timelines
- ensuring that the court has all required information before scheduled hearings or trials
- scheduling of expedited hearings when a matter requires immediate attention of the court

Reimagining Dependency Courts - Case Information Sheet *(version 3)*

Child(ren)'s Name(s) & Age(s)	
Parents' Names & Ages	
Court Case Number(s)	

PART 1: CASE ASSESSMENT FACTORS	YES	NO
Is at least one child 3 years of age or younger?		
<i>Prior child welfare or criminal justice system involvement</i>		
Was the child a ward of the court and that wardship was terminated/dismissed prior to this dependency petition?		
Is there a prior termination or relinquishment as to other children for either parent?		
Does either parent have a history of criminal charges related to physical abuse of a child?		
<i>Parental Areas of Concern</i>		
Is either parent a respondent (restrained person) in an active FAPA protective order?		
Are there current criminal charges related to the allegations in the petition?		
Is either parent under 18 years of age?		
Totals for Each Column		

Preliminary Track Assignment (based on responses above) –

- Standard Track** (there are 0-1 yes responses)
- Intensive Track** (there are 2 yes responses)
- Expedited Track** (there are 3 or more yes responses)

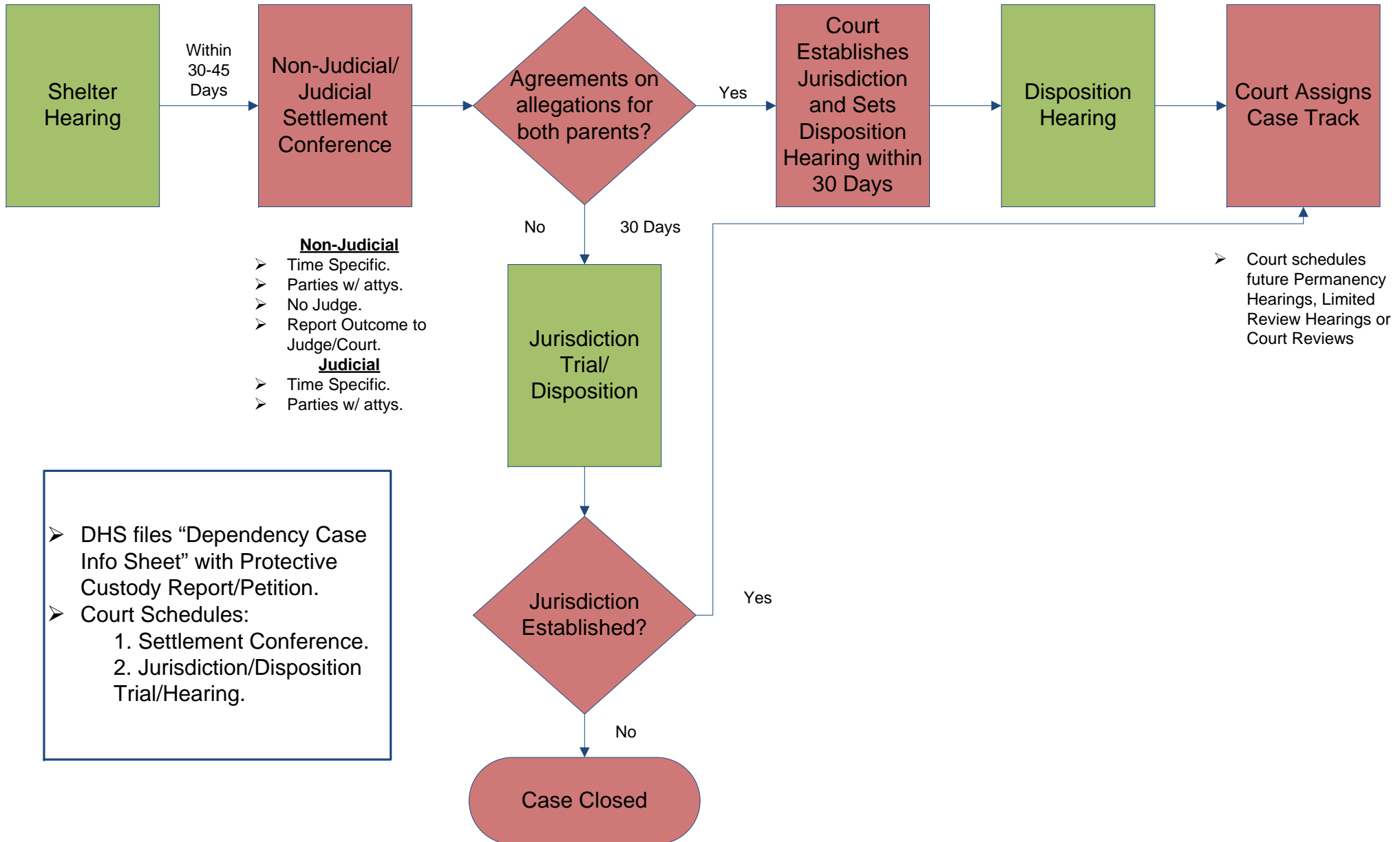
PART 2: Check any of the following child-focused areas of concern
<input type="checkbox"/> This case results from a disrupted adoption. <input type="checkbox"/> The child is unable to be maintained in a family-like setting due to a mental, physical, psychological, or behavioral condition of the child. <input type="checkbox"/> The child has been abandoned. <input type="checkbox"/> The child has a history of DD placements.
To finalize case assignment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If <u>none of the areas of concern in Part 2 are checked</u>, the case will remain on the preliminary track assignment identified above. • If <u>one or more of the areas of concern in Part 2 are checked and</u> the Preliminary Track Assignment is the Standard Track the case will be assigned to the Intensive Track. • If <u>one or more of the areas of concern in Part 2 are checked and</u> the Preliminary Track Assignment is the Intensive Track, the case will be assigned to the Expedited Track.

Track Assignment - Standard (DCM1) Intensive (DCM2) Expedited (DCM3)

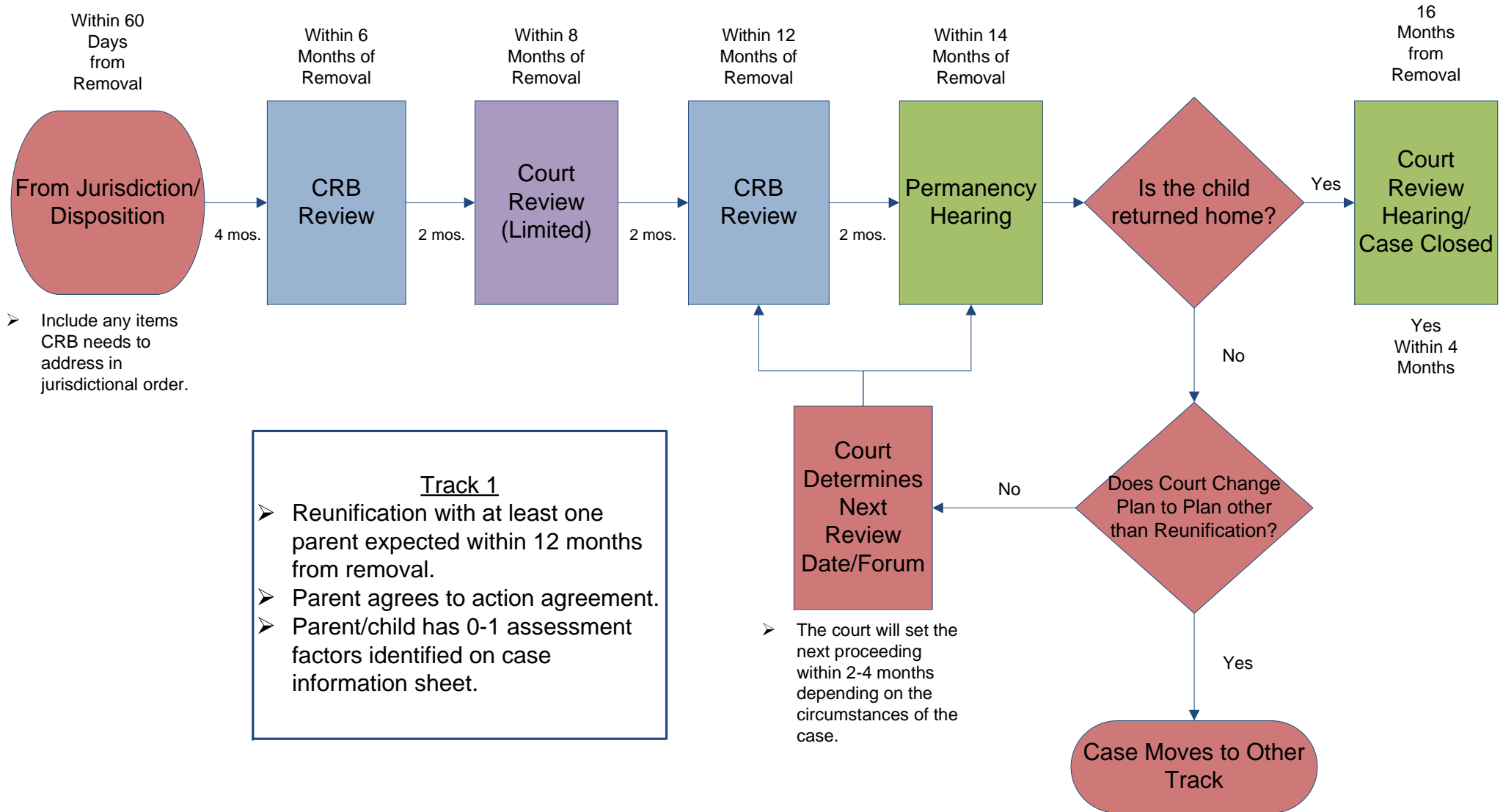
Date: _____

Check when track assignment case event entered in Odyssey:

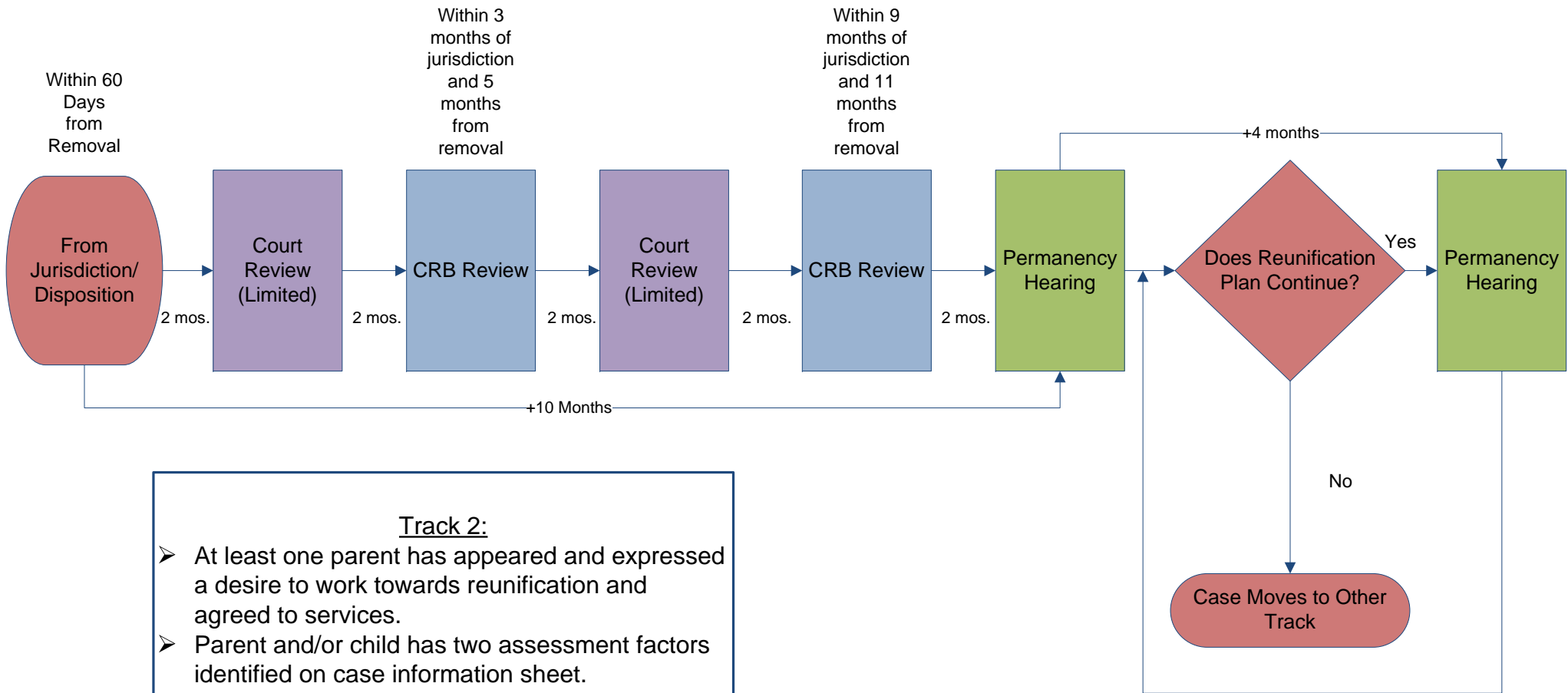
Initiation to Jurisdiction



Track 1: Standard Review Track

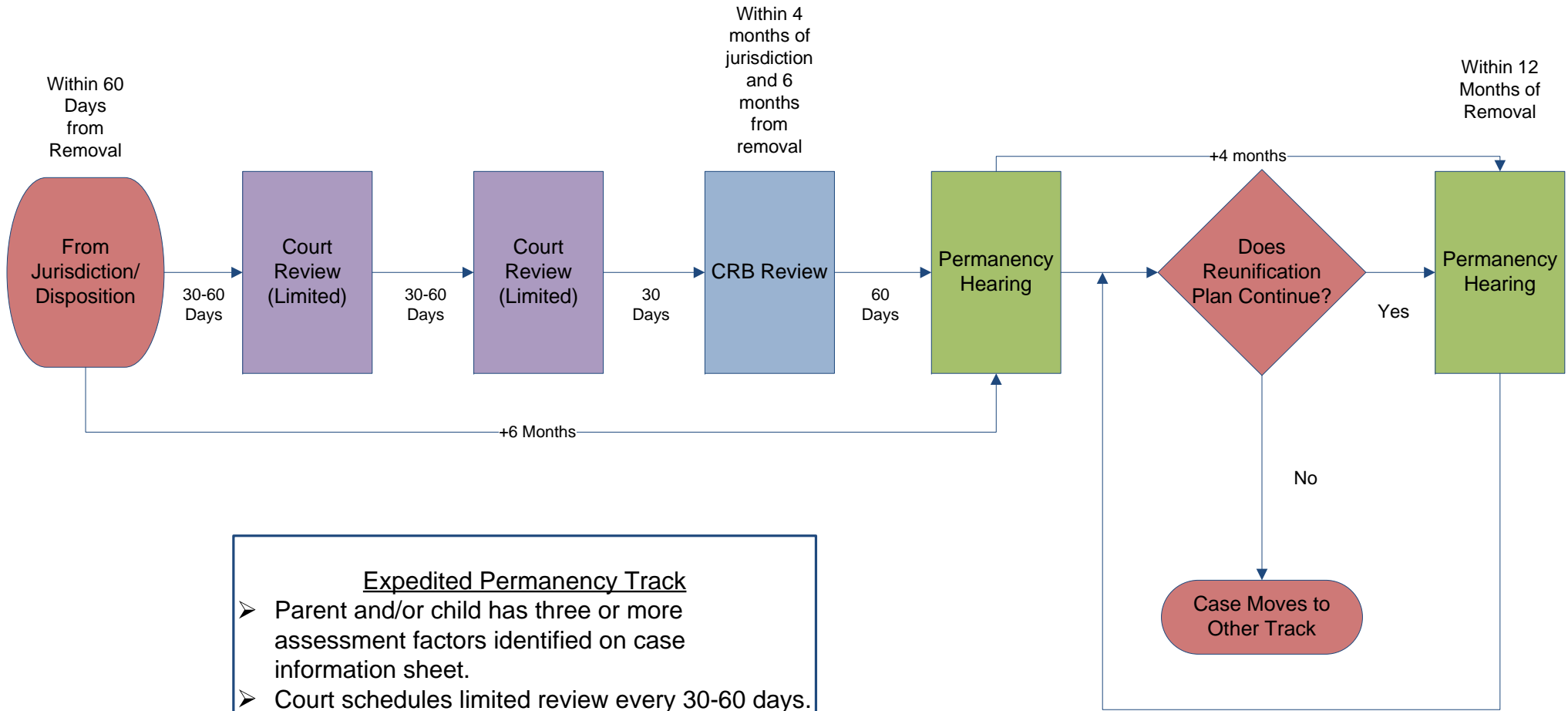


Track 2: Intensive Review Track



- Track 2:
- At least one parent has appeared and expressed a desire to work towards reunification and agreed to services.
 - Parent and/or child has two assessment factors identified on case information sheet.
 - ◆ Court sets permanency hearing 10 months from jurisdiction/12 months from removal.
 - ◆ Court sets limited court review 2 month from jurisdiction/disposition and 6 months from jurisdiction/disposition.
 - ◆ Court sets 2nd permanency hearing 14 months from jurisdiction/16 months from removal.

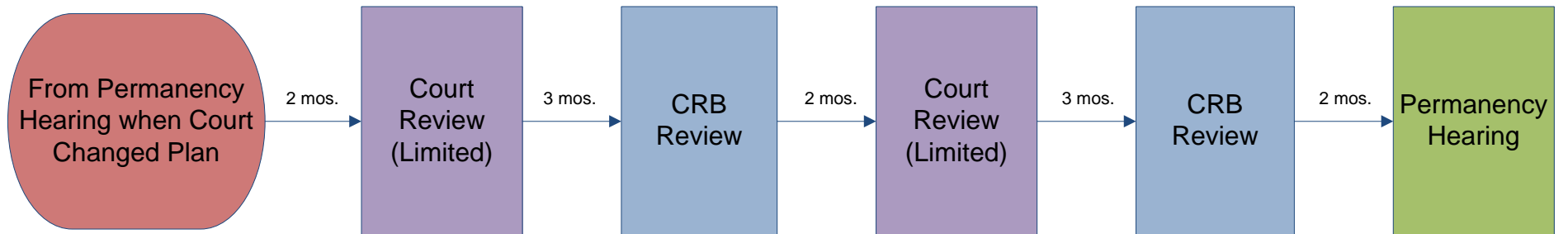
Track 3: Expedited Review Track



Expedited Permanency Track

- Parent and/or child has three or more assessment factors identified on case information sheet.
- Court schedules limited review every 30-60 days.
- Court schedules 1st permanency hearing for 6 months from jurisdiction.
- Court schedules 2nd permanency hearing for 4 months from 1st permanency hearing.

Adoption Track



- Track 1 & 2 = 12 months from removal.
- Track 3 = 7 months from removal.

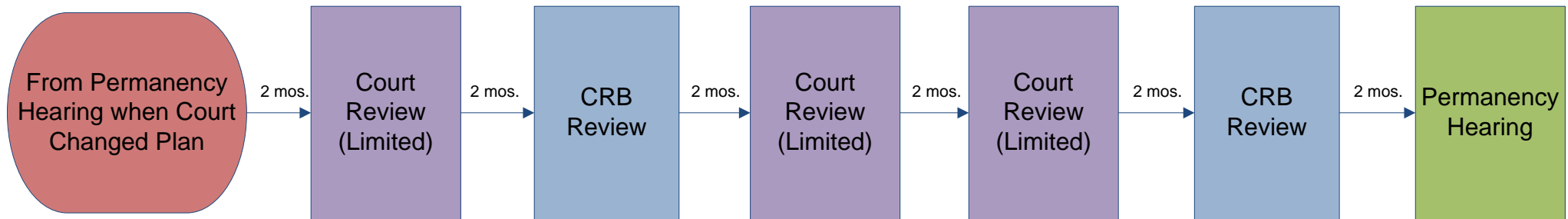
- DHS Reports on status of TPR petition.
- When will it be filed?

- Check status of TPR – if child is free schedule out permanency hearing every 6 months.

- If child is placed in an adoptive placement, next perm in 12 months, if not, next perm in 6 months

- Process continues until adoption is finalized.
- Once child is freed, Oregon law requires a permanency hearing every 6 months until child is placed in adoptive placement.
- If court changes plan at permanency hearing to a plan other than adoption the case follows the appropriate track.

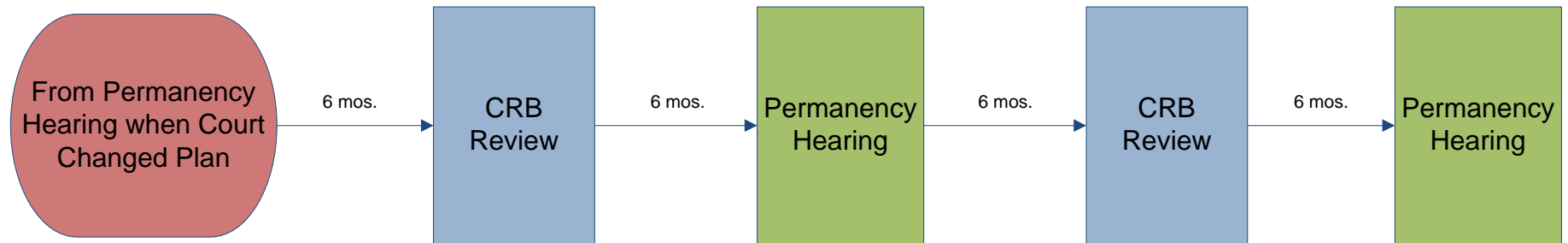
Guardianship Track



- Track 1 & 2 = 12 months from removal
- Track 3 = 7 months from removal

➤ Cycle continues until guardianship is finalized.

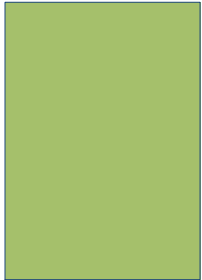
PWFWR & APPLA Track



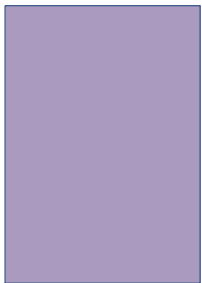
- Track 1 & 2 = 12 months from removal
- Track 3 = 7 months from removal

- Process continues until child leaves care or court changes plan at a permanency hearing to a higher level plan and case follows appropriate track.
- Court can schedule an early CRB review.
- CRB can request that court schedule a limited court review or early permanency hearing.

Key for Reading the Flow Charts:

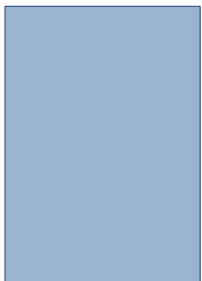


Court Hearing/Trial – full court report required – 5 days before hearing/trial.



Court Review (Limited) – status check,

- Court report NOT required.
- A limited review order will only include new conditions that are stipulated to by parties.
- A limited review order may include specific direction for CRB inquiry at the next CRB review.
- The following changes will not be made at a limited review – unless stipulated to by parties:
 - Placement changes.
 - Visitation changes.
- A party may request a full review hearing 30 days prior to a limited review.



CRB Review