Status Hearing Checklist
15 minutes; up to 25 suggested best practice

Prior to Hearing:
- ☐ Hearing 60 days after DFPS appointed TMC, unless aggravated circumstances
- ☐ Persons given 10 days' notice of hearing
- ☐ Visitation Plan filed least 10 days before
- ☐ Family Plan of Service filed no later than 45th day after DFPS appointed TMC
- ☐ Education decision-maker form filed
- ☐ Medical consent form filed
- ☐ Parent attorneys appointed
- ☐ Dismissal date set
- ☐ Child "3 in 30" exam trio performed no later than 30th day after child entered TMC of DFPS.

At Hearing:
Due Process and General Matters
- ☐ Identify parties present and served
- ☐ DFPS due diligence to locate parties
- ☐ DFPS provided notice to relatives
- ☐ Need for language interpretation
- ☐ Inform parents of right to attorney
- ☐ If AAL hasn't seen client, form filed
- ☐ Child Placement Resources Form filed
- ☐ Child provided opportunity to provide information about possible relative or other caregiver
- ☐ If child with relative, inform about Permanency Care Assistance
- ☐ Paternity issues/Paternity Registry
- ☐ Home studies initiated
- ☐ Review current and alternative placements
- ☐ Review conservatorship and substitute care of the child
- ☐ Indian/Native American Heritage

- ☐ DFPS held or plans to hold Permanency Planning Meeting
- ☐ Address citizenship issues, consulate notified
- ☐ Review child's medical care

Family Plan of Service (SP)
- ☐ Determine if:
  - SP developed jointly with parents
  - Each term reviewed/discussed with parents; parents understand
  - Parents informed of rights with SP process
  - Noted if parent not able or willing to participate in development of SP
  - Plan has primary and concurrent goal
  - Plan is signed by parents and DFPS
- ☐ Parent has opportunity to comment on SP
- ☐ Court can modify SP at any time

Visitation Plan (VP)
- ☐ Review VP:
  - Age and safety of child at/during visitation
  - Desires of each parent regarding visitation
  - Location of each parent and child
  - Transportation to/from visits
  - DFPS/other resources available to support visitation
- ☐ Court may modify VP at any time
- ☐ If find visitation not in child's best interest, include in order reasons and specific steps parent must take to have visitation

At the End of the Hearing:
- ☐ Determine whether SP reasonably tailored for specific issues identified by DFPS
- ☐ Determine whether any SP with goal of reunification adequately ensures that reasonable efforts made to enable parents to provide safe environment for child
- ☐ Advise/warn parents & parties:

KEY: Statutory   Court Findings   Best Practices   Well-Being

- Custodial rights and duties subject to restriction or termination or child not returned unless parent demonstrates willingness and ability to provide child with safe environment
- Progress under SP reviewed at all hearings, including review of newly acquired knowledge or skills

☐ Incorporate SP into court order and render additional, appropriate orders to require compliance with or implement SP

☐ **ISSUE COURT ORDER*:***
- Dismissal date
- May transfer to court of continuing, exclusive jurisdiction, if CCEJ exists

☐ Review psychiatric care, especially if child or youth prescribed psychotropic medication

☐ Young adult presence at hearing or opinion about education or medical care

Best Practices:

☐ Set first Permanency Hearing Before Final Order and announce in open court

☐ Engage parties with direct questions
- *Do you understand the purpose of the Service Plan?*

☐ Ask direct and specific questions of the Department about reasonable efforts
- *What about this plan is reasonably tailored to address specific issues present in Ms. Smith's case?*

☐ **Ask the following questions:**
- *What is preventing this child from returning home today?*
- *How is my decision specific to this child and this family?*
- *Are there cultural issues we need to understand?*

Well-being Issues at Status Hearing:

☐ School stability, education goals, progress, and issues, and education decision-maker

☐ Medical Consenter may need to be identified or updated

KEY: Statutory   Court Findings   Best Practices   Well-Being