



Pima County Juvenile Court: Dependency Alternative Program (DAP)

Dependency Alternative Program (DAP) Goals

To prevent
dependency actions
when an alternative
legal arrangement can
provide safety and
stability

To keep families out of
the dependency
system for at least one
year.

Case Scenarios

One Parent Unsafe / Both Parents Unsafe

Parent Terminally Ill / Deceased

Parent Incarcerated / Missing

Successor Guardian

Dependency Alternative Program: Why?

DAP can provide a non-dependency alternative when all parties agree a custody change would provide safety and stability.

In 2014 approx. 20% of the 1,351 dependency petitions were dismissed pre-adjudication.

90 pre-adjudication dismissal cases researched and reviewed.

A DAP case lasts an average of **7.0** days from referral.

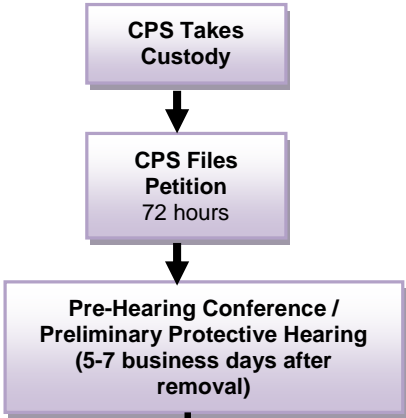
v.

A dependency case that lasts an average of **141** days if dismissed pre-adjudication and **682** days if dismissed post-adjudication.

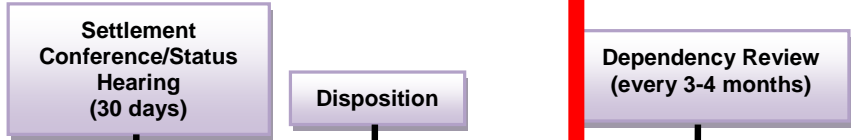


The Dependency Process

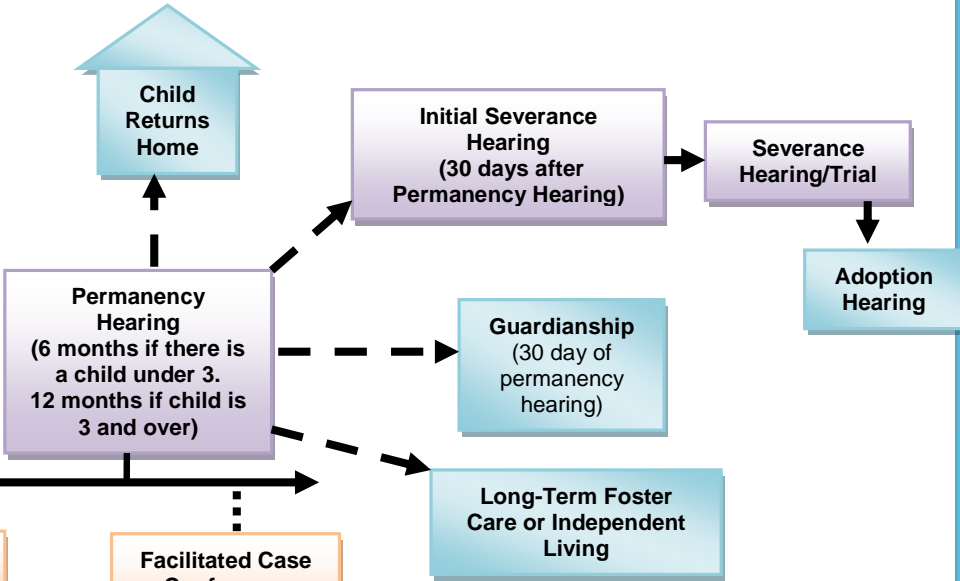
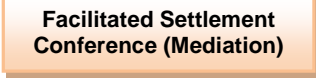
The following MUST happen:

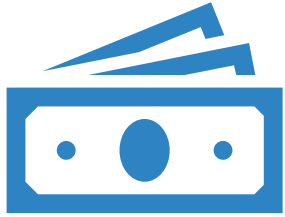


These steps occur prior to adjudication and our research found it took an average of 141 days (almost 4 months)



The following MAY happen:





Pre-Adjudication dismissal is costly



Issues not being addressed



Access to Justice

Through the parents' and family's eyes

Through the children's eyes

Through the systems' eyes

Dependency Alternative Program (DAP)



**Strengthening
Partnerships**

DAP: Referral Sources

DCS

- Meet specific criteria
- Staffed with supervisor & TDM completed
- **Prior to filing dependency petition**

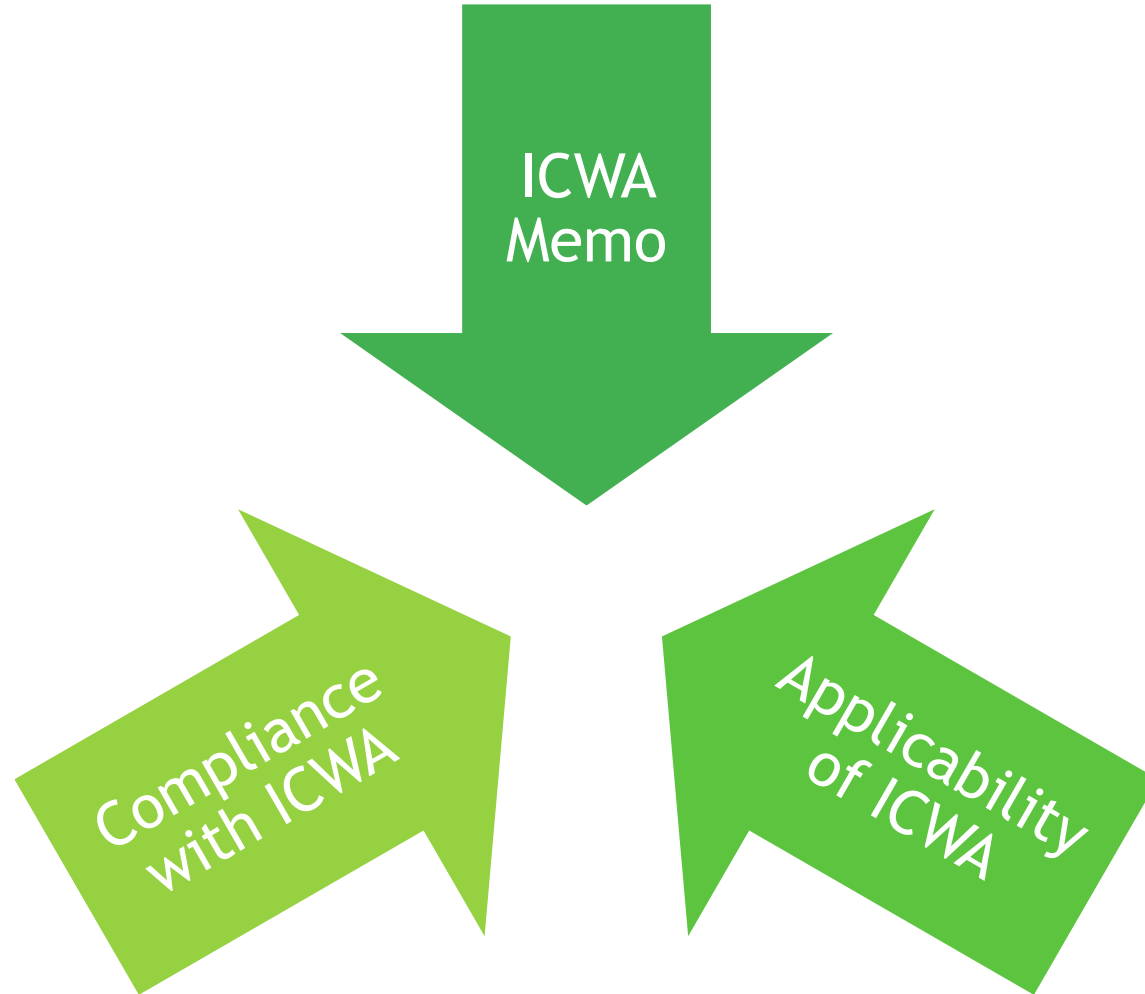
Private Dependencies

- Screened by court staff (previously also, the assigned private dependency judge)
- Modified temporary orders issued until day of DAP

GAL, AKSS, Successor Guardian, Other

- Guardians ad Litem (GAL) in delinquency actions
- Other client referral to DAP (i.e. PD's office)
- **Important not to widen the net beyond cases that would likely be a dependency action**

Dependency Alternative Program: Indian Child Welfare Act



DAY OF DAP

Families meet with an advisory attorney who advises on legal options, explains the process, and answers legal questions.



Families and professionals participate in a mediation, if needed, to negotiate a resolution.



If a full agreement is reached, the attorney assists with preparing and filing legal documents. The Clerk's office has modified filing procedures to accommodate DAP

DAY OF DAP: The Hearing

- ▶ Hearing is held only if a full agreement reached
- ▶ Proceed to dependency process if no agreement is reached
- ▶ If private dependency, petitioner moves to withdraw petition
- ▶ Final or temporary orders



DAY OF DAP: Outcomes

Parenting
Plan

In Loco
Parentis

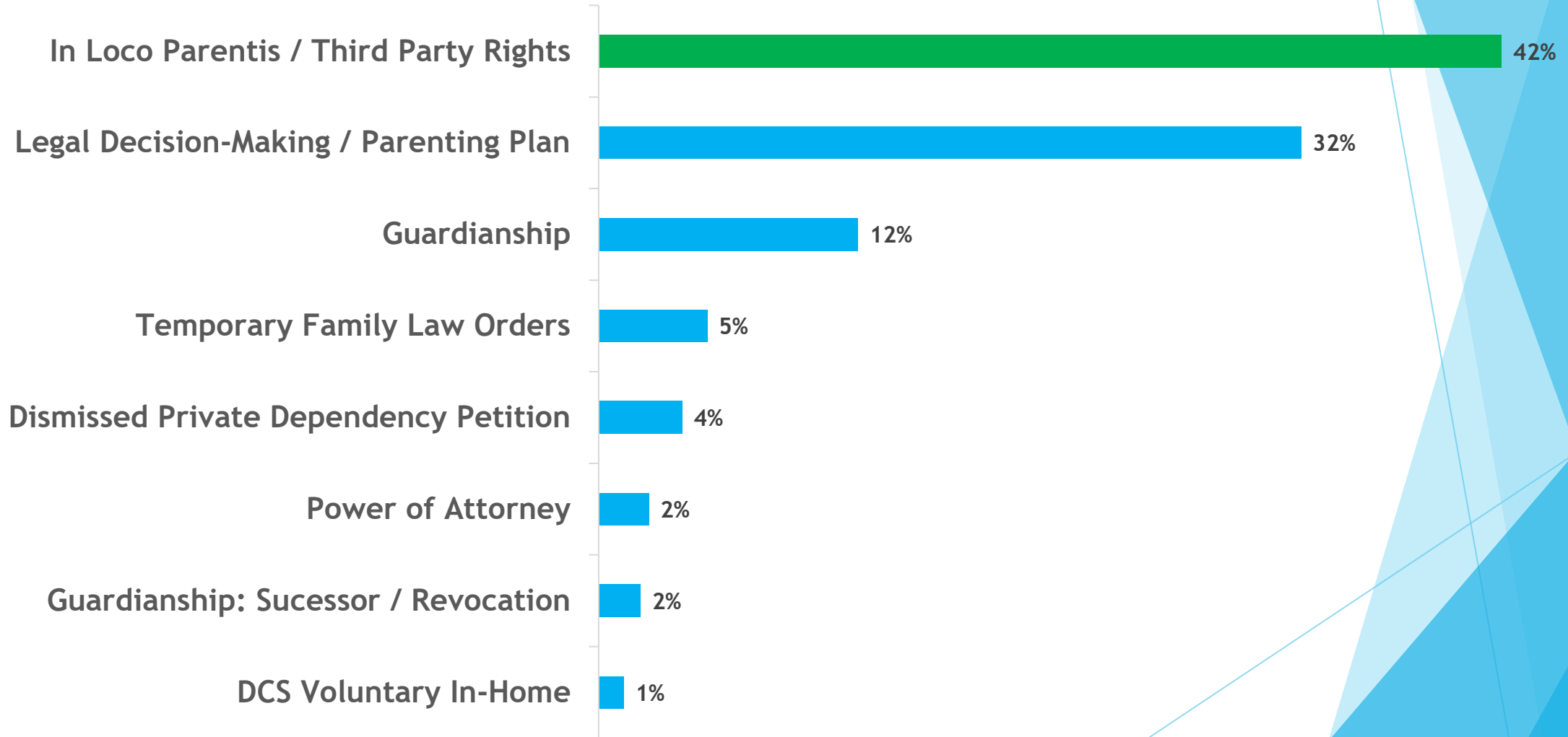
Guardianship

Successor
Guardian

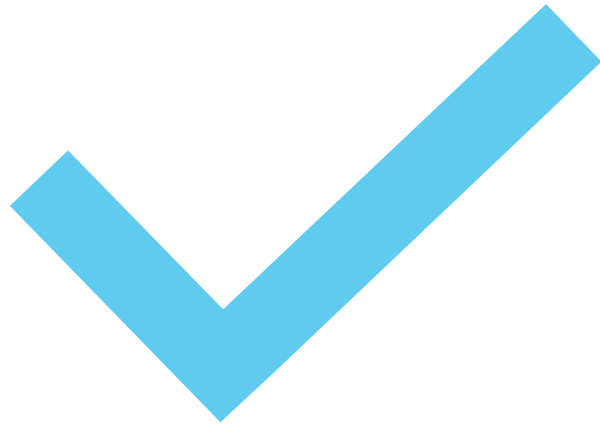
Power of
Attorney

Proceed to
Dependency

DAP: Outcomes 7/1/15 to 6/30/20

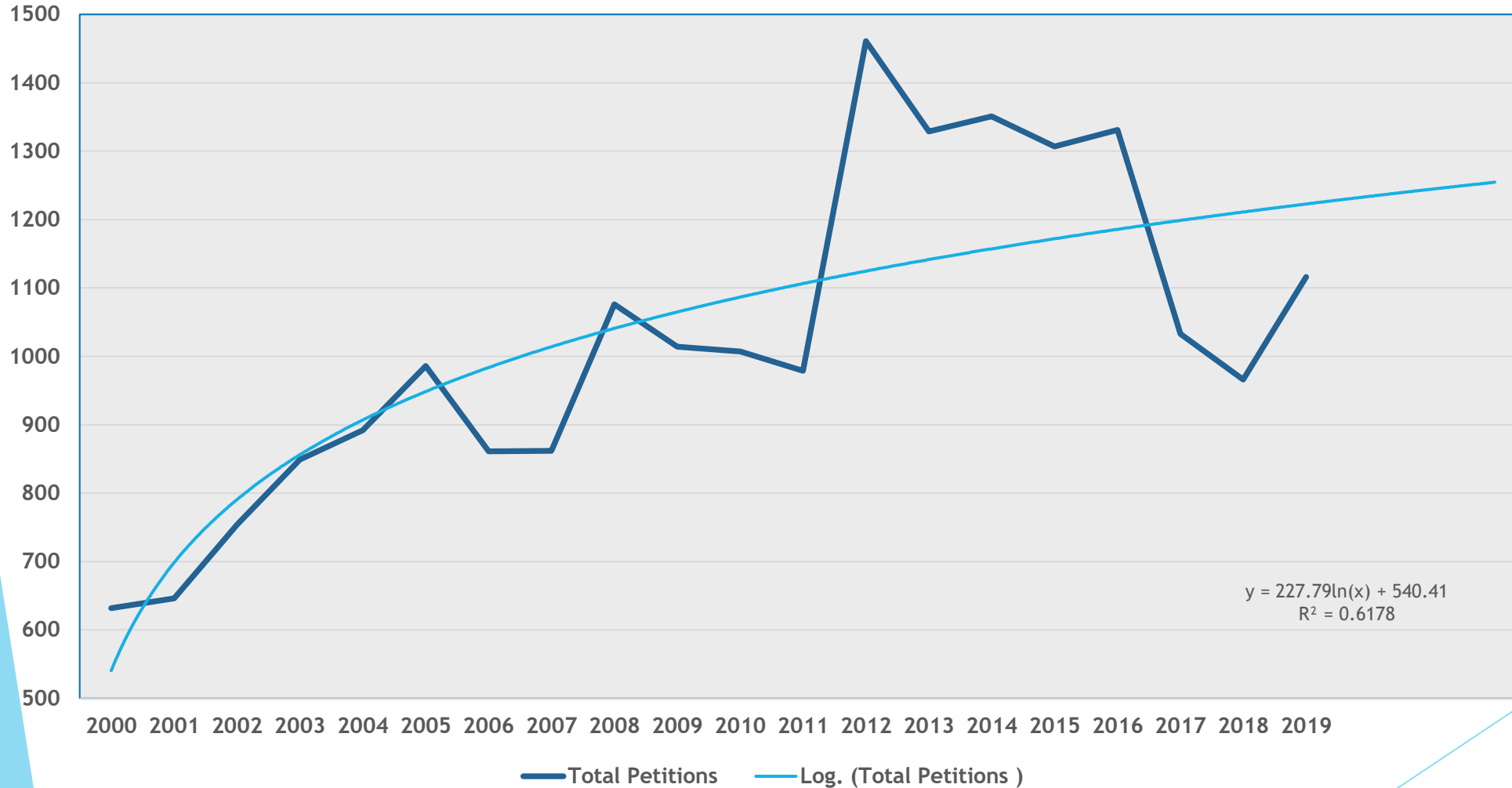


DAP: How we track our impact and success



- ▶ Constant program evaluation
- ▶ DAP Committee Meetings
- ▶ Data Driven Decisions

Pima County Juvenile Court: Petitions Filed



Goal 1:
Without
DAP,
2016
would have
been the
second
highest
year for
petitions

DAP: Goal 2

Keeping families out of the dependency system for at least one year



We met our goal with **97.4%** of DAP children remaining out of the dependency system for at least one year.

DAP: Outcomes

260 cases involving 384 children

88% success rate

Overall client satisfaction of 98%

Estimated savings 1 million

Dependency Alternative Program (DAP)

Arizona Supreme Court 2017 Strategic Plan Award
for Protecting Children, Families, and Communities



Expansion efforts

Included in Arizona Supreme Court Chief
Justice Robert M. Brutinel's strategic plan
for state-wide expansion

County site-visits and pilot projects



Let us know if you would
like to know more or have
further questions!

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