Dependency System Decision Points Map: From Intake to Exit

DHS decision points continuously evaluated throughout case:
- **Length of stay:** does a child stay a long time in foster care or go home quickly?
- **Type of placement:** With whom is the child placed?
- **The exit pathway:** By what way (permanency or other path) does a child actually exit care?

- **Intake:** all reports received by child welfare and initially determined to be an issue of possible child abuse/neglect.

- **Screening decision:** whether to assign the report for a full assessment or complete it at screening.

- **Removal/hold:** an indication of whether or not a child was removed from family or held apart from their family based on the immediate safety concerns arising from assessment of the report.

- **Disposition:** the results of the assessment indicating whether or not abuse/neglect occurred.

- **Identified permanent plan:** What is the child welfare system working towards as the possible exit pathway?

- **Case resolution**

DHS decision points

Evaluated and assessed throughout the life of the case.

Court decision points

Shelter hearing

Settlement conference

Trial

Reviews every 90 days

Permanency Hearing

Case resolution