

Court Observation Tool

Case # _____ Coder _____ Judge _____

Hearing Date ____/____/____ Start time: _____ End time: _____

(N/A= Not applicable)

Parties Present

☐ Mother ☐ Mother Atty
☐ Father ☐ Father Atty
☐ Child(ren) ☐ Child Atty
☐ Caseworker ☐ Relative
☐ AG/DA ☐ Interpreter
☐ CASA ☐ Tribal Rep.
☐ GAL ☐ Tx Provider
☐ Foster Parent
☐ Other _____

Parent/Youth Engagement --Did the judge...

Explain the hearing purpose/process?
 Speak directly to the person?
 Address the person by name?
 Ask if they have questions?
 Identify the next steps?
 Ask if person understands next steps?
 Give person opportunity to be heard?
 Through attorney only?

☐ N/A ☐ N/A ☐ N/A
☐ M ☐ F ☐ Y
☐ M ☐ F ☐ Y
☐ M ☐ F ☐ Y
☐ M ☐ F ☐ Y
☐ M ☐ F ☐ Y
☐ M ☐ F ☐ Y
☐ M ☐ F ☐ Y

(0= No discussion, 1=Statement only, 2=more than a statement)

Breadth & Depth of Key Topics

Discussion Level

Child's Placement <input type="checkbox"/> home <input type="checkbox"/> relative	0 1 2 N/A
Educational needs/placement	0 1 2 N/A
Child physical health	0 1 2
Child mental health/development	0 1 2
Specific safety concerns	0 1 2 N/A
Visitation	0 1 2 N/A
Efforts to reunify family/prevent removal	0 1 2
Maintaining permanency connections	0 1 2
Parent's rights/process/perm timeframes	0 1 2 N/A
Review of petition	0 1 2 N/A
Paternity	0 1 2 N/A
Relative Resources	0 1 2 N/A
Safety planning	0 1 2 N/A
Preventing child from returning home today?	0 1 2 N/A

Did judge inquire about Indian heritage? ☐ Y ☐ N

FINDINGS/ORDERS

Finding that ICWA does/does not apply ☐ Y ☐ N

Reasonable Efforts finding ☐ Y ☐ N

- ☐ Reasonable efforts **were** made to prevent Removal
- ☐ Reasonable efforts were **not** made
- ☐ Reasonable efforts were not required
- ☐ Reasonable efforts were withheld/cont'd

Placement in the home is contrary to the welfare of the child ☐ Y ☐ N

Set the next hearing date on the record? ☐ Y ☐ N Consider parent's availability? ☐ Y ☐ N