· SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE · ONE OF THREE

Timeline and Key Hearings

Every statutory deadline in a CINA case, in the order the court meets it.

STATUS

Sent for coordinator approval January 2026. Reskinned and cleaned up since. Confirm citations against current Maryland law before printing.

I CINA CASE TIMELINE

Emergency shelter care	Immediately upon removal **CJP § 3-815; Md. Rule 11-112**
Shelter care hearing	Next court day after emergency placement **Md. Rule 11-112(a)**
Continued shelter care	Maximum 30 days; extend 30 more for cause **CJP § 3-815(c)**
Adjudicatory hearing	30 days (shelter) / 60 days (no shelter) **CJP § 3-817; Md. Rule 11-114**
Disposition hearing	Same day, or within 30 days of adjudication **CJP § 3-819; Md. Rule 11-115**
Permanency planning hearing	No later than 11 months after out-of-home placement **CJP § 3-823(b)(1)(i)**
Review hearings	At least every 6 months **CJP § 3-823(h)**
Permanency goal	Every reasonable effort within 24 months **CJP § 3-823(h)(5)**
TPR petition filing	Child in placement 15 of the most recent 22 months **FL § 5-525.1(b)**
TPR ruling	Within 180 days of petition filing **Md. Rule 11-501**

II PERMANENCY PLAN HIERARCHY

CJP § 3-823(e)(1), in descending order of priority

1	Reunification with the parent or guardian
2	Placement with a relative for adoption, or for custody and guardianship
3	Adoption by a non-relative
4	Custody and guardianship by a non-relative
5	Another planned permanent living arrangement (APPLA), youth 16 and older only

NOTE

The court has no preference between adoption and guardianship for relatives, CJP § 3-823(e)(2). The local department must prefer adoption, then guardianship, then care and custody, FL § 5-525(f)(2)(ii).

ALSO IN THIS SET: 2. Findings on the Record 3. Reasonable Efforts