

TEMPORARY PHYSICAL CUSTODY HEARING OUTLINE - CHIPS

Statutory Summary

- ❖ **48 Hours.** Temporary Physical Custody (TPC) hearing, must be held within 48 hours of the time the decision to hold the child was made, excluding Saturday, Sundays, and legal holidays. §48.21(1)
 - Child released if hearing not held within the time limits, the. §48.21(1)(a).
 - Petition filed by the time of the hearing unless a 72 hour extension is granted under §48.21(1)(b)¹
- ❖ Prior notice of the hearing shall be given to the child's parent, guardian and legal custodian and Indian custodian, and to the child if he or she is 12 years of age or older. §48.21(3)(b)
- ❖ There is no right of substitution of judge for a TPC hearing. §48.29
- ❖ Closed to the public. §48.299
- ❖ **Rules of evidence do not apply** - §48.299
- ❖ TPC hearing cannot be waived, but the parent, guardian, legal custodian, or Indian custodian may waive his or her right to participate in the hearing. However, after waiver, a rehearing shall be granted for good cause shown. §48.21(3)(am).
- ❖ **Before the hearing begins:**
 - A copy of the TPC request and petition to the parties §48.21(3)(b).
 - The court informs, the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of:
 - The right to counsel under s. 48.23.
 - The allegations that have been made or may be made.
 - The nature and possible consequences of the hearing.
 - The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses.
 - The right to present witnesses.
 - The right to counsel under 48.028(4)(b) for the parent or Indian custodian of an Indian child involved in an out-of-home placement proceeding. §48.21(3)(d)
- ❖ **Counsel**
 - If CHIPS allegation under §48.13, the child may be represented by counsel at the discretion of the court. A child 15 years of age or older may waive counsel. §48.23(1m) (b) 1.
 - The court may appoint counsel for the child or any party, unless the child or party wishes to retain counsel of his or her own choosing. §48.23(3) An Indian child's parent or Indian custodian shall have the right to be represented by counsel as provided in §48.23(2g).

¹ Unless the child was taken into custody under a capias issued by a judge in this state, under a capias or warrant for the child's apprehension issued in another state, or the child has violated conditions of an order for temporary physical custody. §48.21 (1) (a).

- The court shall appoint counsel for any child alleged to be in need of protection or services under §48.13 (3), (3m), (10), and (11), except that if the child is less than 12 years of age the court may appoint a guardian ad litem instead of counsel. §48.23(3m).

❖ **Criteria for Custody - §48.205.**

- Probable cause to believe:
 - If the child is not held child will cause injury to self or be subject to injury by others.
 - If the child is not held he or she will be subject to injury by others, based on a determination that another child in the home will be subject to injury by others
 - A finding under s. 48.21 (4) that if another child in the home is not held that child will be subject to injury by others
 - The parent, guardian or legal neglecting, refusing, unable or unavailable to provide adequate supervision **and** care and that services to ensure the child's safety and well-being are not available or would be inadequate.
 - Another child in the home meets the criteria.
 - The child will run away or be taken away so as to be unavailable for proceedings of the court or its officers.
 - The child is an expectant mother and if she is not held, there is a substantial risk to the physical health of the unborn child, and the child, when born, will be seriously affected or endangered due to the expectant's mother's habitual and severe abuse of alcohol or other drugs and refusal to get treatment.

❖ **If no petition filed** by the time of hearing, child may be held an **additional 72 hours** from the time of the hearing, excluding Saturday, Sundays, and legal holidays, **only if**, probable cause exists to believe any of the following §48.21(1)(b):

- That additional time is required to determine whether the filing of a petition is necessary.
- That the child is in imminent danger to himself, herself or others.
- That probable cause exists to believe that the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the child or other responsible adult is neglecting, refusing, unable, or unavailable to provide adequate supervision and care.
- That, if the child is an expectant mother who was taken into custody under s. 48.19 (1) (cm) or (d) 8., probable cause exists to believe that there is a substantial risk that if the child expectant mother is not held, the physical health of the unborn child, and of the child when born, will be seriously affected or endangered by the child expectant mother's habitual lack of self-control in the use of alcohol beverages, controlled substances, or controlled substance analogs, exhibited to a severe degree, and to believe that the child expectant mother is refusing or has refused to accept any alcohol or other drug abuse

services offered to her or is not making or has not made a good faith effort to participate in any alcohol or other drug abuse services offered to her.

❖ **Placement** - §§48.21(4) and 48.207

- with a parent, guardian, legal custodian, relative, or other responsible person and may impose reasonable restrictions on the child's travel, association with other persons or places of abode during the period of placement, or subject the child to supervision of an agency agreeing to supervise the child. Reasonable restrictions may be placed upon the conduct of the parent, guardian, legal custodian or other responsible person which may be necessary to ensure the safety of the child or
- a licensed foster home, licensed group home, nonsecure facility operated by a licensed child welfare agency, a licensed public or private shelter care facility, a hospital, or, if in Milwaukee County, the county children's home, or
- the home of a non-relative, if the placement does **not exceed 30 days** (though placement can be extended for cause), and if the person has not had a license under §48.62 refused, revoked, or suspended within the last 2 years.

❖ **Order placing child outside the home** shall include all of the following:

- A finding that continued placement of the child in his or her home would be **contrary to the welfare** of the child.
- A finding as to whether the person who took the child into custody and the intake worker have made reasonable efforts to prevent the removal of the child from the home, while assuring that the child's health and safety are the paramount concerns.
- A finding as to whether the person who took the child into custody and the intake worker have made **reasonable efforts** to make it possible for the child to return safely home .
- The order continues until a dispositional order or consent decree is entered, the petition is withdrawn or dismissed, or the TPC Order is modified or terminated by further order of the court. §48.21(5m).
- A child, parent, guardian, legal custodian, or Indian custodian who was not represented by counsel at the hearing where custody is continued may request a rehearing, which shall take place as soon as possible. §48.21(3)(e).

❖ **Changes in Placement.**

- The caseworker, agency, district attorney, or corporation counsel may perform a change in placement following a 10-day notice to case participants. Emergency changes in placement may occur immediately, provided that notice is sent within 48 hours of the change in placement. A hearing would occur if an objection is filed by any party receiving notice, except CASA. Placement may change immediately if authorized via written waivers of objection or authorized by the original TPC Order, unless new information exists to affect the advisability of that order. §48.217(1) and (2).

- The child, child's counsel or guardian ad litem, parent, guardian, legal custodian, or Indian custodian may request a change in placement where new information exists to affect the advisability of the TPC Order. The court may also propose new placement. A hearing is required unless written waivers and approval of court. §48.217(2m).

Potential Issues

- ❖ Security for hearing
- ❖ Need for an interpreter
- ❖ Notice of hearing
- ❖ Paternity
- ❖ WICWA – for notice and future hearings
- ❖ Incarcerated parent – Physical or audio/video appearance available
- ❖ Any language or cognitive challenges
- ❖ Need for counsel or guardian ad litem

Case Law

- ❖ Statute barring court from appointing counsel for parents or any party other than child in proceedings for children alleged to be in need of protection or services (CHIPS) violated due process clause, which required individualized determination of need for appointment under circumstances presented by particular case; fundamental fairness required that circuit judge be given discretion to make determination of what due process would require on case-by-case basis. *Joni B. v. State*, 202 Wis.2d 1, 549 N.W.2d 411 (1996).
 - **Note:** § 48.23 was amended by 2017 Wisconsin Act 253 to allow the court to appoint counsel for CHIPS parents.
- ❖ Under *Joni B.*, juvenile courts have discretionary authority to appoint counsel for parents in CHIPS cases. When a parent requests counsel or when circumstances raise a reasonable concern that the parent will not be able to provide meaningful self-representation, the court must exercise that discretion. *State v. Tammy L.D.*, 2000 WI App 200, 238 Wis.2d 516, 617 N.W.2d 894.
- ❖ Determination of self-representation competency requires an assessment of whether a person is able to provide himself or herself with “meaningful” self-representation; in making this assessment, courts must distinguish technical legal knowledge-- something that is not required--from the practical ability to make arguments, present evidence, and ask effective questions. *In re Sophia S.*, 2006 WI App 100, 293 Wis.2d 279, 715 N.W.2d 692, review denied, 2006 WI 126, 297 Wis. 2d 323, 724 N.W.2d 205.
- ❖ The written TPR warnings apply only to orders removing children from placement with their parents or denying parental visitation. Temporary physical custody orders or extensions of those orders may not lead to a loss of parental rights and do not require the written warning. *Marinette County v. Tammy C.*, 219 Wis. 2d 206, 579 N.W.2d 635 (1998), 97-2946.