



### Possible Pathways

1. **Early Exit** (0-3 months): cases where children are placed with, or in the custody of, a parent by the 90 day status hearing. These cases should involve very little court intervention.
2. **Short-Term Intervention** (3-6 months): cases where children remain in DCF custody after the 90 day status hearing yet the barriers to reunification are clear and the parents are engaged. Reunification is expected within the first 6 months. Alternatively, if parents have abandoned the proceeding and are not engaged at all, a trial should be scheduled. These cases will have minimal court involvement other than the status hearing and disposition.
3. **Moderate Intervention** (6-12 months): cases where children remain in DCF custody and are not able to be reunified within the first year. An adjudicatory hearing may be appropriate. If children are with kin, permanent custody, guardianship or adoption by agreement should be considered. These cases may have moderate court involvement through pre-trial motions and an adjudicatory hearing or trial.
4. **Complex Intervention** (12-18 months): cases with complex clinical and/or legal issues which demand additional time, attention and litigation. Once the complexity is clarified, the case may move to a different path.