



Fast Facts – Contact to Closure

What is the Contact to Closure Pilot Project?

The project focuses on the amount of time it takes for individual juvenile protection cases to progress from the first contact with the court to case closure as the child reaches permanency. The pilot project is a multi-systemic effort to understand the causes that delay timely permanency for a child. Two Minnesota counties are participating in the pilot project. State Children’s Justice Initiative (CJI) staff will identify and submit cases to the pilot teams for review, cases that are most at risk of not meeting the Judicial Branch Timing Objectives, including cases that are already beyond the timeline expectations. Participating counties will determine if there are trends and patterns that cause delays and will implement practice changes to address them.

What is permanency as it relates to child protection cases?

Permanency is defined as a child having a safe, stable, and permanent family who supports their healthy growth and development. This stability is disrupted when a child experiences abuse or neglect, is removed from the care of their parent or legal custodian and enters the child protection system. Reestablishing permanency in a timely manner is very important to the child’s ongoing development.

Does the Minnesota Judicial Branch have a policy about permanency?

Yes, Minnesota Judicial Branch Policy 505.1 details the expectations for time to permanency dispositions. For Juvenile Protection cases, the objective is 90% of children should achieve a permanency disposition within 12 months of removal from the care of the parent, and 99% of children should achieve a permanency disposition within 18 months of removal from the care of the parent.

What is the goal of the Contact to Closure Pilot Project?

More children will reach permanency in a timely manner by identifying challenges and encouraging changing county practices. Long-term change will include increased accountability for ensuring timely permanency for children, which will be reflected in each participating county seeing either a 10% improvement and/or seeing 99% of children achieving permanency within 18 months of removal from their parent at the end of the two-year project.



Fast Facts – Contact to Closure

How can I learn more about this topic?

Visit the [Contact to Closure Project Information page](#) on mncourts.gov