

# FLORIDA'S DEPENDENCY BENCHBOOK - FAMILY-CENTERED PRACTICE

## Time Certain Calendaring and Orders

**Time certain calendaring.** Engaging working parents and caregivers and school-aged children—the hallmark of family-centered court practice—requires reducing the wait time for hearings. While most courts still use mass docketing, those judges who use time certain or interval calendaring report success. Time certain calendaring is particularly effective when coupled with a clear, firm, and written continuance policy.

**Orders.** Prepare and distribute orders at the hearing, when possible, so all parties have an immediate record of court decisions and what they are expected to do before the next hearing. If a party is ordered to prepare the order after the hearing, set a due date and track for compliance (for instance, the judge may ask the guardian ad litem to track the preparation of the order for timeliness).