

2. ORDER THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT TO REPORT BACK TO THE COURT IN WRITING WITHIN 30 DAYS UNLESS THE COURT EXTENDS THE TIME PERIOD FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN;

3. IF THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT DOES NOT FIND THE CHILD ELIGIBLE FOR PLACEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT, HOLD A HEARING TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE FAMILY AND CHILD ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PLACEMENT OF THE CHILD IN ACCORDANCE WITH A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT; AND

4. AFTER THE HEARING:

A. FIND THAT THE CHILD IS NOT IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE AND ORDER THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT TO OFFER TO PLACE THE CHILD IN ACCORDANCE WITH A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT UNDER § 5-525(A)(1)(I) OF THE FAMILY LAW ARTICLE;

B. FIND THAT THE CHILD IS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE; OR

C. DISMISS THE CASE; OR

[(ii)] (III) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, find that the child is in need of assistance and:

1. Not change the child's custody status; or

2. Commit the child on terms the court considers appropriate to the custody of:

A. A parent;

B. Subject to § 3-819.2 of this subtitle, a relative, or other individual; or

C. A local department, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, or both, including designation of the type of facility where the child is to be placed.

(2) Unless good cause is shown, a court shall give priority to the child's relatives over nonrelatives when committing the child to the custody of an individual other than a parent.

Article - Family Law