IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE AMENDMENTS TO THE TENNESSEE RULES OF JUVENILE PROCEDURE

No. ADM2016-01777

ORDER

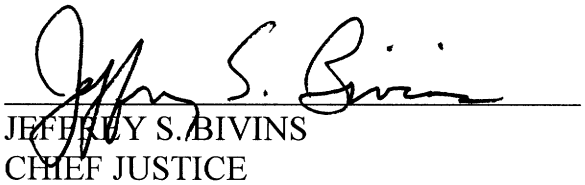
The Court adopts the attached amendments effective July 1, 2017, subject to approval by resolutions of the General Assembly. The rules amended are as follows:

RULE 108	INJUNCTIVE RELIEF;
RULE 109	ORDERS FOR THE ATTACHMENT OF CHILDREN;
RULE 201	PRELIMINARY INQUIRY AND INFORMAL ADJUSTMENT;
RULE 202	PRETRIAL DIVERSION;
RULE 203	PROCEDURES UPON TAKING A DELINQUENT CHILD INTO CUSTODY;
RULE 208	TRANSFER TO CRIMINAL COURT;
RULE 210	ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS;
RULE 211	DISPOSITIONAL HEARINGS; and
RULE 302	PROCEDURES UPON TAKING CHILD INTO CUSTODY;

The text of each amendment is set out in the attached Appendix.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

FOR THE COURT:



JEFFREY S. BIVINS
CHIEF JUSTICE

APPENDIX

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF JUVENILE PROCEDURE

RULE 108. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

[Amend Rule 108 and the original Advisory Commission Comment to read as follows (new text underlined; deleted text stricken):]

(a) How Obtained.

(1) A request for injunctive relief shall be in the form of a motion or a petition, or on the court's own initiative, and may be obtained by:

(A) An ex parte restraining order;
(B) An injunction issued during the pendency of a matter; or
(C) An injunction issued as part of a dispositional order;.
~~(D) A no contact order pursuant to T.C.A. § 37-1-152.~~

(2) Every request for injunctive relief shall state whether a previous application for the relief has been refused by any court.

(b) In General.

(1) Every ex parte restraining order or injunction shall be specific in terms and shall describe in reasonable detail the act restrained or enjoined.

(2) Every ex parte restraining order or injunction shall be indorsed with the date and hour of issuance, shall be signed by the judge or magistrate granting it, and shall be filed in the clerk's office.

(3) Every ex parte restraining order or injunction shall be binding upon the parties to the action, their officers, agents and attorneys; and upon other persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of the ex parte restraining order or injunction by personal service or otherwise.

(c) Ex Parte Restraining Order.

(1) An ex parte restraining order shall only restrict the doing of an act.

(2) An ex parte restraining order may be issued by the judge of the court in which the matter is pending or is to be filed, or by any magistrate serving such court.

(3) An ex parte restraining order may be issued when the court finds: (1) that a child may abscond or be removed from the court's jurisdiction; or (2) that there is a danger of immediate harm to a child such that a delay for a hearing would be likely to result in severe or irreparable harm.

(4) The standard of proof applicable in issuance of an ex parte restraining order shall be probable cause. The court may consider a motion, petition, sworn affidavit, sworn testimony or reliable hearsay.

(5) A copy of the ex parte restraining order shall be promptly served on each party by a person authorized to serve a summons. If an ex parte restraining order is issued at the commencement of an action, a copy shall be served with the summons.

(6) An ex parte restraining order becomes effective and binding on the party to be restrained at the time of service or when the party to be restrained is informed of the order, whichever is earlier.

(7) An ex parte restraining order shall expire by its terms and shall not exceed 15 days unless within such time period: (1) the court extends the order after affording the party to be restrained an opportunity to be heard, or (2) the party to be restrained consents to the extension. Any such extension of an ex parte restraining order shall be in the form of an injunction.

(8) If the request for an ex parte restraining order is brought against a parent of a child and the relief requested would interfere with the parent's constitutional right to have care and control of the child, the court shall proceed with a preliminary hearing within 72 hours of entry of the ex parte order, pursuant to Rule 302, rather than the 15 day timeframe prescribed above.

(d) Injunction.

(1) An injunction may restrict or mandatorily direct the doing of an act, either temporarily or permanently.

(2) Prior to the issuance of an injunction, the court shall afford the party to be enjoined notice, grounds therefore, and an opportunity to be heard.

(3) An injunction may be issued, modified or dissolved by the judge or magistrate of the court in which the matter is pending. The court shall only modify or dissolve an injunction when the court finds such to be consistent with the child's best interests.

(4) During the pendency of a matter, the court may issue an injunction when the court finds that the conduct of the person to be enjoined is or may be detrimental or harmful to the child.

(5) As part of a dispositional order, the court may issue an injunction when the court finds that the conduct of the person to be enjoined is or may be detrimental or harmful to the child and would tend to defeat the execution of a dispositional order.

(6) The standard of proof applicable in issuance of injunctive relief shall be preponderance of the evidence. Evidence shall be admitted in accordance with the Rules of Evidence. In the court's discretion, any evidence so admitted may be admissible in the underlying matter and need not be repeated if all parties participated in the hearing for injunctive relief.

(7) The court may issue an injunction upon such terms and conditions, and the injunction shall remain in force for such time, as the court determines to be consistent with the child's best interests.

(e) Injunctive Relief Against Non-Party. The court may issue an ex parte restraining order, injunction, or no contact order against a person who is not a party to the dependent and neglected, delinquent, or unruly proceeding if that person's

conduct is or may be detrimental or harmful to the child. In such cases, the person to be restrained or enjoined shall be a party only to the petition or motion for injunctive relief. Neither the request for injunctive relief nor the order granting injunctive relief shall confer party status in the underlying case on the person to be enjoined.

Advisory Commission Comments.

Injunctive relief may be issued pursuant to T.C.A. § 37-1-152.

The Commission has chosen to use the term "restraining order" to refer only to an ex parte order granted by the court, while the term "injunction" applies to all orders granted after a hearing. The Commission chose the term "injunction" to clarify that the court may restrain an act or mandatorily direct the doing of an act.

A dependent and neglect matter is an inquiry as to the status of a child rather than a proceeding to determine guilt or to apportion blame or liability among various persons. As the court stated in *State Dep't of Children's Servs. v. Huffines-Dalton,* No. M2008-01267-COA-R3-JV, 2009 Tenn. App. LEXIS 364, at *18, 2009 WL 1684679 (Tenn. Ct. App. June 15, 2009):

> Under Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-129, the court must first hold a hearing and make findings whether a child is dependent and neglected within the meaning of the statute. "The function of the adjudicatory hearing is to determine whether the allegations of dependency, neglect, or abuse are true." Accordingly, the adjudication is not against either parent or the custodian but addresses the question of whether the child is dependent and neglected for any of the reasons enumerated by the statute. During this adjudicatory phase, the parties are "entitled to the opportunity to introduce evidence and otherwise be heard in the party's own behalf and to cross examine adverse witnesses," Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-127(a), and the Rules of Evidence apply.

(Citations omitted.)

Because a dependent and neglect proceeding may involve persons other than parents or guardians, such as "caretakers" as referenced in the definition of "abuse" in T.C.A. § 37-1-102(b)(1), or "persons with whom the child lives" under T.C.A. § 37-1-102(b)(12)(B), the Commission intended to clarify that injunctive relief may be sought against such persons. Such persons may not enjoy a legal relationship with the child but such person's conduct may have caused or contributed to the child being

found to be dependent and neglected. As the Court stated in *In re: Melanie T.*, 352 S.W.3d 687, 697 (Tenn. Ct. App. 2011):

> [I]t is clear that a biological or legal parent/child relationship is not essential to uphold a finding that a minor is "dependent and neglected." The statute expressly states that a "child" is "dependent and neglected" if that child lives with a "parent, guardian or *person"* who *"by reason of cruelty,...immorality or depravity* is *unfit to properly care for such child."* By using the words "parent, guardian or person with whom the child lives," the General Assembly made it perfectly clear that a dependent and neglect claim...does not require that the "unfit" person be a biological or legal parent of the child at issue. Therefore, a person who lives with a child need not be a biological or legal parent of the child in order for a "dependent and neglected" action to be maintained against that person.

(Emphasis in original; citations omitted.)

Thus, the seeking of injunctive relief against such non-parent persons is allowed and does not, in and of itself, confer party status on such persons in the underlying dependent and neglect matter. Further, the proceeding regarding the issuance of injunctive relief may be separate from the underlying matter.

The issue of who, exactly, is a "party" to a dependent or neglect proceeding is not as straightforward as it first appears. Those with a legal relationship to the child, such as parents, are, of course, proper parties and are named respondents in such matters. The analysis grows more complex when the matter involves a step-parent or a boyfriend or girlfriend to a parent, those who have no legal interest in the child. Such persons may have caused or contributed to the child's dependent and neglect status, and whose conduct is in issue in the proceeding, but may not be appropriate persons to take steps to regain entrance to the child's life. The better practice is to view those more remote, legally, from the child as respondents in an injunction proceeding, but not as respondents in the underlying dependent and neglect matter.

The Commission notes *City of Chattanooga v. Swift,* 442 S.W.2d 257, 258 (Tenn. 1969) ("By the term 'party', in general, is meant one having a right to control proceedings, to make a defense, to adduce and cross-examine witnesses, and to appeal from the judgment") (citing *Boyles v. Smith,* 37 Tenn. 105, 107 (Tenn. 1857)).

~~If the request for an ex parte restraining order is brought against a parent of a child and the relief requested would interfere with the parent's constitutional right to have care and control of the child, the court should proceed with a preliminary hearing~~

~~within 72 hours, pursuant to Rule 302, rather than the 15 day timeframe prescribed in subdivision (c)(7) above.~~

~~The Commission recognizes that, pursuant to T.C.A. § 37-1-152(b), the Department of Children's Services or child protection team may apply to the court for the issuance of a no contact order with regard to suspected perpetrators of child sexual abuse. This order may require the removal from the child's home of the suspected perpetrator. The standard of proof in this proceeding is the lesser standard of probable cause while the standard of proof generally in injunctive proceedings (other than requests for an ex parte restraining order) is preponderance of the evidence.~~

See Rule 110 for the computation of time.

Advisory Commission Comments [2017].

The rule is amended by deleting subdivision 108(a)(1)(D), which referred to no contact orders pursuant to T.C.A. § 37-1-152. Also, the last paragraph of the original Advisory Commission comment is deleted. These changes were necessary due to an amendment to T.C.A. § 37-1-152.

The rule is also amended by deleting a paragraph in the original Advisory Commission Comments and adding the substance of that paragraph as the new subdivision (c)(8) of the rule.

RULE 109. ORDERS FOR THE ATTACHMENT OF CHILDREN

[Amend Rule 109 and the original Advisory Commission Comment to read as follows (new text underlined; deleted text stricken)]:

(a) Requirements for Issuance of Orders for Attachment. Orders for the attachment of children shall be based upon a judicial determination that there is probable cause to believe that the child is in need of the immediate protection of the court because:

(1) The conduct, condition or surroundings of the child are endangering the child's health or welfare or that of others; or

(2) The child may abscond or be removed from the jurisdiction of the court; or

(3) Service of a summons or subpoena would be ineffectual or the parties are evading service.

The statement of a person requesting the order of attachment must be by affidavit or sworn testimony reduced to writing and must provide sufficient factual information to support an independent determination that probable cause exists for the issuance of the order. If hearsay evidence is relied upon, the affidavit or testimony must include the basis for the credibility of both the declarant and the declarant's statements.

(b) Failure to Appear. When a child fails to appear at a hearing or other court-scheduled proceeding to which the child has been properly served or directed by appropriate court personnel to appear, the court may, on its own initiative or on the basis of a sworn writing, issue an attachment.

(c) Terms of Order. The order for attachment shall order that the child be brought immediately before the court or that the child be taken into custody in accordance with Rule 203 or 302.

Advisory Commission Comments.

Ordinarily, proceedings in juvenile court will be initiated and conducted pursuant to the issuance of a petition and summons rather than the issuance of attachment. Attachments should be used only when necessary to further the goals and purposes of the juvenile court. The Commission notes that the offense of failure to appear is a defined offense and may provide independent grounds for the issuance of an order to take a child into custody if charged. .

The issuance of an order of attachment does not determine what should occur once that child is taken into custody. There may be instances in which an order to take a

child into custody is warranted but, once accomplished, that child may not meet the requirements to be held in a secure facility pending hearing. In addition, the purpose of an order to take a child into custody may vary from case to case. The order should give specific instructions as to how the attachment order should be carried out.

Subdivision (b) allows the court to issue an attachment in the event the child fails to appear at a court-scheduled hearing, meeting or conference after the child has been duly summoned to appear and fails to do so. The attachment may direct the appropriate authorities to take the child to a detention facility or to court or to another place. Prior to issuing an attachment for failure to appear, whether or not the child is charged with the delinquent act of failure to appear, the child must have received appropriate notice specifying the date, time and location of the proceeding in issue. Accordingly, the Commission encourages each court to implement notice procedures which satisfy due process and afford court participants ample notice of proceedings. For instance, a summons generally is required to initiate most court proceedings, unless the child is served with an arrest warrant or has been issued a citation, while notice of subsequent court dates may be accomplished by less formal means so long as the method chosen is effective.

This rule clarifies the evidentiary requirements for the issuance of orders for the attachment of children based on the provisions of T.C.A. §§ 37-1-113(2), 114(a)(2), 117(b), and 122~~, and 128(b)(2)~~.

This rule will apply to the process of obtaining an "arrest order" for a child pursuant to T.C.A. §§37-1-113(2).

As only attachments of children are addressed in this rule, reference to T.C.A. § 37-1-122, regarding attachments of parents, guardians, and other persons having custody of children under juvenile court jurisdiction, was omitted from the rule. That code section should be consulted for guidance in regard to such action.

Advisory Commission Comments [2017].

The rule is amended by adding this 2017 Advisory Commission Comments as further explanation. Additionally, the fourth paragraph of the original Advisory Commission Comment is amended by changing two references to T.C.A. § 37-1-128(b) to T.C.A. § 37-1-117(b), in light of the amendments to the statutes.

An attachment is distinguished from an order for the removal of custody or order of detention, in that it addresses only the physical taking of the person of the child, under terms specified by the court, for the purposes specified in this rule. An attachment may accompany an order of removal of custody, order of detention, or other order, if necessary to accomplish the taking of child's

person, but will not be necessitated in every case, as where the child is already in the physical custody of the intended entity.

If the probable cause determination in subdivision (a) is based on a written affidavit reciting the facts, it may be sworn to in person or by audio-visual means. *Black's Law Dictionary* defines affidavit as "(a) voluntary declaration of facts written down and sworn to by the declarant before an officer authorized to administer oaths." *Black's Law Dictionary* 66 (9th ed. 2009).

RULE 201. PRELIMINARY INQUIRY AND INFORMAL ADJUSTMENT

[Amend Rule 201 and the original Advisory Commission Comment to read as follows (new text underlined; deleted text stricken):]

(a) Purposes. The juvenile court preliminary inquiry is intended to:

(1) Provide for resolution of complaints by excluding from the juvenile court at its inception:

(A) Those matters over which the juvenile court has no jurisdiction;

(B) Those matters in which there appears to be insufficient evidence to support a petition; or

(C) Those matters in which sufficient evidence may exist to bring a child within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court but which are not serious enough to require official action under the juvenile court law or which may be suitably referred to a non-judicial agency available in the community;

(2) Provide for the commencement of proceedings in the juvenile court by the filing of a petition only when necessary for the welfare of the child or the safety and protection of the public.

(b) Receipt of Complaint. Any person or agency having knowledge of the facts may file a complaint with the juvenile court or an officer designated by the court alleging facts to indicate a child is delinquent or unruly. The court representative accepting the complaint shall note thereon the date and time of receipt of the complaint.

(c) Duties of Designated Court Officer. Upon receipt of the complaint, the designated court officer shall:

(1) Interview or otherwise seek information from the complainant, victim and any witness to the alleged offense.

(2) Conduct an interview with the child who is the subject of the complaint and the child's parents, guardian or legal custodian. At the beginning of the interview, the officer shall explain the nature of the complaint and inform the child of the right to counsel, where applicable, that if the child cannot afford an attorney one will be appointed if applicable, and that the child has a right to remain silent and any statements made by the child will not be admissible in any proceeding prior to the dispositional hearing.

(A) If the child invokes the right to an attorney, the designated court officer shall immediately suspend the interview, allow for the appointment or retention of counsel, and reschedule the matter.

(B) If the child chooses to proceed with the interview without counsel, the designated court officer shall obtain a written waiver from the child and proceed with the interview.

(3) If the designated court officer determines that the juvenile court does not have jurisdiction over the matter or there appears to be insufficient evidence to support the complaint, then the complaint shall be closed and no further action taken by the court.

(d) Informal Adjustment. (1) If the designated court officer determines that the matter is not serious enough to require official action before the juvenile court judge, then the designated court officer may remedy the situation by giving counsel and advice to the parties through an informal adjustment. In determining whether informal adjustment should be undertaken, the designated court officer may consider:

(A) Whether the child has had a problem in the home, school or community which indicates that counsel and advice would be desirable;

(B) Whether the child and the parents, guardian or legal custodian seem able to resolve the matter with the assistance of the designated court officer or other court staff, and without formal juvenile court action;

(C) Whether further observation or evaluation by the designated court officer is needed before a decision can be reached;

(D) The attitude of the child, parents, guardian, or legal custodian;

(E) The concerns of the victim, child, the parents, guardian, or legal custodian, and/or any other affected persons or agencies;

(F) The age, maturity and mental condition of the child;

(G) The prior history or record, if any, of the child;

(H) The recommendation, if any, of the referring party or agency;

(I) The results of any mental health, drug and alcohol or other assessments or screenings of the child; and

(J) Any other circumstances which indicate that informal adjustment would be consistent with the best interest of the child and the public.

(2) The informal adjustment shall not occur without the consent of the child and the child's parents, guardian or other legal custodian. Prior to giving consent, the child must be notified that participation is optional and may be terminated by the child at any time.

(3) The informal adjustment process shall not continue beyond a period of 3 months from its commencement unless such extension is approved by the court for an additional period not to exceed a total of 6 months. ~~The process shall only include counsel and advice, or referral to an agency available in the community for successful completion of a suitable treatment program, class or some form of alternative dispute resolution.~~

(4) Upon successful completion of a period of informal adjustment, the complaint shall be closed and no further action taken by the court. If a petition has been filed, then the petition shall be dismissed with prejudice.

(5) The designated court officer may terminate the informal adjustment and proceed with formal court action if at any time the child or the child's parents, guardian or legal custodian:

(A) Declines to participate further in the informal adjustment process;

(B) Denies the jurisdiction of the juvenile court over the instant matter;

(C) Expresses a desire that the facts be determined by the court;

(D) Fails to comply with the terms of the informal adjustment program.

(6) Upon termination of the informal adjustment process, the designated court officer shall notify the child and the child's parent, guardian or legal custodian thereof, and the victim. The termination shall be reported to the court. Such notification shall include the basis for the termination.

(e) Informal Adjustment Determined Inappropriate. If the designated court officer determines informal adjustment to be inappropriate, then formal court proceedings shall commence with the filing of a petition or citation.

(f) Statements of Child. Any statements made by the child during the preliminary inquiry or informal adjustment are not admissible in any proceeding prior to the dispositional hearing.

Advisory Commission Comments.

The 2016 amendment combines two previous rules regarding intake in and informal adjustment in delinquent and unruly cases. The intent of this rule is to allow local courts flexibility in how they handle informal adjustment, but also to spell out those basic procedures which must take place in every case in which informal adjustment is undertaken to ensure that informal adjustment is voluntary, as required in T.C.A § 37-1-110.

The requirement in subdivision (b) that the court representative accepting a complaint shall note thereon the date and time of receipt of the complaint has been added to ensure that complaints are reduced to writing and documentation exists as to when the complaint was received. The term "complaint" includes, but is not limited to, a petition or citation. The complaint may be filed with the clerk of the court or another person designated by the court. The term "complaint" as used in these rules is not equivalent to a complaint referenced in the Rules of Civil Procedure.

As part of the preliminary inquiry, subdivision (c) requires the designated court officer to notify the child of the child's right to an attorney at the beginning of the interview with the child. T.C.A. § 37-1-126 provides that a child is entitled to be represented by an attorney in any delinquent proceeding. A child is entitled to an attorney when charged with an unruly offense when the child is in jeopardy of being removed from the home pursuant to T.C.A. § 37-1-132(b). Not all children charged with an unruly offense are

entitled to an attorney. The right attaches when the child is in jeopardy of being placed outside the child's home with a person, agency or facility. Prior to placing custody of an unruly child with the Department of Children's Services, the court is obligated to refer the child to the Department's juvenile-family crisis intervention program pursuant to T.C.A. §~~ 37-168~~ 37-1-168. A child's assertion of the right to counsel should not preclude an informal adjustment when appropriate.

It should be noted that, although attitude may be a factor under subdivision (d)(l)(iv) to consider in determining whether to undertake informal adjustment, it should not be the sole basis for denying informal adjustment. Each locality is encouraged to adopt and implement standardized risk and needs assessment tools in order to assist in this process.

~~Because informal adjustment allows only for counseling and advice, subdivision (d)(3) does not allow for sanctions such as restitution. However, i~~In many instances, the child or the child's family may desire to pay the alleged victim for any harm done. If the child and the victim agree to restitution, this can be done independently of the informal adjustment. ~~and not as a prerequisite or condition of the informal adjustment. If the intent is to make restitution a condition, the appropriate resolution is pretrial diversion and not informal adjustment.~~

Subdivision (e) provides that when an informal adjustment is determined to be inappropriate then formal court proceedings shall commence with the filing of a petition or citation. If a petition has not been filed at this point in time, then such petition should be filed with the clerk of the court. If a citation has been filed that meets the requirements of T.C.A. § 40-7-118, then a petition need not be filed in order to commence formal proceedings. If an informal adjustment is determined to be inappropriate, the designated court officer should assess whether a pretrial diversion is appropriate.

Courts should develop written local procedures and criteria for initiating informal adjustments. Such criteria might include a listing of the types of cases, or charges, which might be handled by informal adjustment. Local rules should include a process by which the district attorney general, petitioner, or victim of the offense may object to an informal adjustment.

Advisory Commission Comments [2017].

The rule is amended by deleting the last sentence of subdivision 201(d)(3). That sentence (which provided, "The process shall only include counsel and advice, or referral to an agency available in the community for successful completion of a suitable treatment program, class or some form of alternative dispute resolution") was intended to have been

deleted in the comprehensive revision of the Rules of Juvenile Procedure effective July 1, 2016, but was inadvertently included in the revision.

Additionally, the fifth paragraph of the original Advisory Commission Comment is amended by deleting references to subdivision 201(d)(3), which also should have been removed in the comprehensive revision of the Rules of Juvenile Procedure

RULE 202. PRETRIAL DIVERSION

[Amend Rule 202 and the original Advisory Commission Comment to read as follows (new text underlined; deleted text stricken):]

(a) Pretrial Diversion Agreement. If the designated court officer determines that the matter is appropriate for pretrial diversion, the pretrial diversion agreement shall be in writing and signed by the child, the child's parent, guardian or other legal custodian and the designated court office. The agreement must be approved by the court before it is of any force and effect.

(b) Consent. The pretrial diversion shall not occur without consent of the child and the child's parent, guardian or other legal custodian.

(c) Time Limits. The pretrial diversion process may continue for a period up to 6 months, unless the child is discharged sooner by the court. Upon application of any party made prior to the expiration of the initial time period, and after notice and a hearing, the diversion may be extended for a period not to exceed an additional 6 months.

(d) ~~Requirements~~ Modification. ~~In addition to any counsel and advice authorized for an informal adjustment, sanctions, including, but not limited to community service work and monetary restitution may be made a part of the agreement.~~ The parties, by mutual consent and with court approval, may modify the requirements of the agreement at any time before its termination.

(e) Violation of Pretrial Diversion. If failure to comply with the agreement is alleged, the child shall be given written notice of the alleged violation and an opportunity to be heard on that issue prior to the reinstatement of proceedings pursuant to the original charge. Notice of the failure to comply must be filed prior to the expiration of the pretrial diversion. The filing of the notice extends the period of pretrial diversion pending a prompt hearing on the merits of the alleged violation.

(f) Statements of Child. Any statements made by the child during the preliminary inquiry or pretrial diversion are not admissible in any proceeding prior to the dispositional hearing.

Advisory Commission Comments.

The procedures set forth in this rule essentially allow for a process similar to informal adjustment, with no official finding as to guilt; however, because conditions of a pretrial diversion may be more demanding than those allowed in an informal adjustment there must be court approval of any agreement. Prior to determining whether a case is appropriate for pretrial diversion, the designated court officer should follow the procedures in Rule 201(a)-(c), regarding the preliminary inquiry. ~~Though sanctions, such as community service work or monetary restitution, are not allowed to be imposed on an informal adjustment, these sanctions are appropriate requirements for a pretrial diversion.~~

Courts should develop written local procedures and criteria for initiating pretrial diversion. Such criteria might include a listing of the types of cases, or charges, which might be handled by pretrial diversion. Pretrial diversion might be initiated by the parties or by the court itself, through motion or through whatever other procedure the court determines is appropriate. Local rules and procedures should ensure the district attorney general is notified of cases in which pretrial diversion is being considered, in light of the legitimate public interest in the disposition of more serious cases.

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 37-1-110, if the child completes the pretrial diversion agreement, the case is dismissed. If the court, or the designated court officer, determines that the case is serious enough that such dismissal should not occur, the case should proceed to court as in any other case warranting official court action, and, if the child readily admits guilt and wishes to negotiate a settlement based upon a plea of guilty, such negotiated settlement should be handled in accordance with Rule 209.

Advisory Commission Comments [2017].

The rule is amended by deleting the first sentence of subdivision 202(d) and changing the title to "Modification." That sentence (which provided, "In addition to any counsel and advice authorized for an informal adjustment, sanctions, including, but not limited to community service work and monetary restitution may be made a part of the agreement") was intended to have been deleted in the comprehensive revision of the Rules of Juvenile Procedure effective July 1, 2016, but was inadvertently included in the revision.

Additionally, the last sentence of the first paragraph of the original Advisory Commission Comment is deleted, because it also should have been removed in the comprehensive revision of the Rules of Juvenile Procedure.

RULE 203. PROCEDURES UPON TAKING A DELINQUENT CHILD INTO CUSTODY

[Amend Rule 203 to read as follows (new text underlined; deleted text stricken):]

(a)Delinquent child taken into custody and released. When a child is taken into custody and is not detainable, the child shall be released to the child's parent, guardian or other custodian within a reasonable time. The child and the person to whom a child is released shall be served a summons requiring the child's return to court at such time and place as the court directs.

(b) Delinquent child taken into custody and not released.

(1) If a child is taken into custody without an order and:

(A) The child is alleged to be delinquent and held in secure detention, a probable cause determination that an offense has been committed by the child shall be made by a magistrate within 48 hours of the child being taken into custody; or

(B) The child is alleged to be delinquent and detained under the special circumstances exception pursuant to T.C.A. § 37-1-114(c)(3), a probable cause determination that an offense has been committed by the child and a finding of special circumstances shall be made by a magistrate within 24 hours, excluding nonjudicial days, but no later than 48 hours of the child being taken into custody.

In either case, if the magistrate does not make the required findings, the child shall be immediately released to the child's parent, guardian or other custodian. <u>If the required findings are made and the child remains in secure detention, a detention hearing must be held within the timeframes outlined in subdivision (b)(2).</u> "Magistrate" means a person designated as such pursuant to the provisions of T.C.A §§ 37-1-107 or 40-1-106. Probable cause determinations shall be based on a written affidavit, which may be sworn to in person or by audio-visual electronic means.

(2) If a child alleged to be delinquent is taken into custody pursuant to an order of attachment or if a probable cause determination is made pursuant to paragraph (b), the child shall not remain in detention longer than 72 hours, excluding nonjudicial days, but in no event more than 84 hours, unless a detention hearing is held. For a child so detained, a petition setting forth the allegations against the child and the basis for asserting the court's jurisdiction shall be filed prior to the child's detention hearing.

(c) Secure detention of delinquent child.

(1) A child alleged to be delinquent and not released shall be placed in a juvenile detention facility. The court and the child's parent, guardian or other custodian shall immediately be notified of the child's location and of the reason for the child's detention.

(2) A child not released shall be informed upon being placed in the detention facility, both verbally and in writing, by a person designated by the court of:

(A) The reason for being detained, including the nature of the alleged offense;

(B) The child's right to a detention hearing and an explanation of the purpose of a detention hearing;

(C) The child's right to an attorney and that an attorney will be appointed to represent the child as soon as possible prior to the detention hearing if the child's parent or custodian is financially unable or refuses to retain an attorney for the child;

(D) The right not to say anything about the charges being placed against the child and that anything the child says may be used against the child in court;

(E) The right to communicate with the child's attorney and parent, guardian or other custodian, and that provision will be made by the detention facility to allow for such private communication.

(d) Detention Hearing.

(1) Advisement of Rights. At the beginning of the detention hearing, the court shall inform the parties of the purpose of the hearing and the possible consequences of the detention hearing, and shall inform the child of the child's rights pursuant to Rule 205.

(2) Evidence. Any finding that there is probable cause to believe that an offense has been committed, and that the child committed it, shall be based on evidence admitted pursuant to the Rules of Evidence, except that such evidence may include reliable hearsay.

(3) Required Determinations. The court, in making the decision on whether to detain the child, shall:

(A) Determine whether probable cause exists as to whether the charged offense or a lesser included offense has been committed and whether the child committed it; and

(B) If probable cause has been determined, whether the offense is one which qualifies for continued detention under T.C.A. § 37-1-114; and

(C) If probable cause has been determined and the offense qualifies for continued detention, determine whether it is in the best interest of the child and the community that the child remains in detention pending further hearings. In making this best interest determination, the court should consider the likelihood that the child would abscond or be removed from the jurisdiction of the court; and

(D) Determine whether any less restrictive alternatives to detention are available which would satisfy the court's best interest determination above. The court may impose conditions on release such as the setting of bail, restrictions on the child's movements and activities, requirements of the child's parent, guardian,

or custodian, or other community based alternatives as an alternative to continued detention.

(4) Release of Child. If the court does not find the child is detainable as above, the child shall be released to an appropriate parent, guardian or responsible adult. The court may impose conditions on release as above, and a hearing shall be scheduled.

(5) Continued Detention of Child. If the court orders the child to be detained, or if the child waives the detention hearing, the court shall ensure that the child's case will be scheduled so as to limit the time the child spends in secure detention.

(6) Waiver of Time Limit for Detention Hearing. The time limit for the hearing may be waived by a knowing and voluntary written waiver by the child. Any such waiver may be revoked at any time, at which time a detention hearing shall be held within the time frame outlined in T.C.A. § 37-1-117.

Advisory Commission Comments.

This rule applies only to children alleged to be delinquent. A child alleged to be unruly and taken into custody may not be held in a secure facility for a period longer than allowed in T.C.A. § 37-1-114.

Subdivision (b) clarifies that upon a warrantless arrest of a child alleged to be delinquent, a neutral and detached magistrate must make a probable cause determination that the child has committed the delinquent offense within 48 hours of the arrest. This determination may be made *ex parte.* Under the Fourth Amendment, in order for a state to detain a person arrested without a warrant, a judicial officer must determine that probable cause exists to believe the person has committed a crime. *Gerstein v. Pugh,* 420 U.S. 103 (1974). The judicial officer must make this determination "either before or promptly after arrest." *Id.* at 124. Seventeen years later, the Court further refined its *Gerstein* decision, holding that probable cause determinations must be made within 48 hours of a warrantless arrest. *County of Riverside v. McLaughlin,* 500 U.S. 44, 57 (1991) ("A jurisdiction that chooses to offer combined [probable cause and arraignment] proceedings must do so as soon as is reasonably feasible, but in no event later than 48 hours after arrest"). Although the Supreme Court has not addressed whether *Gerstein* hearings are required for juveniles, the Sixth Circuit has answered this question affirmatively. *Cox v. Turley,* 506 F.2d 1347, 1353 (6th Cir. 1974) ("Both the Fourth Amendment and the Fifth Amendment were violated because there was no prompt determination of probable cause – a constitutional mandate that protects juveniles as well as adults"). *See also State v. Bishop,* No. W2010-01207-SC-R11-CD, 2014 Tenn. LEXIS 189, 2008 WL 888198 (Tenn. 2013), and *State v. Huddleston,* 924 S.W.2d 666 (Tenn. 1996).

The probable cause determination in subdivision (b)(l) must be based on a written affidavit reciting the facts, which may be sworn to in person or by audio-visual electronic means. *Black's Law Dictionary* defines affidavit as "(a) voluntary declaration of facts written down and sworn to by the declarant before an officer authorized to administer oaths." *Black's Law Dictionary* 66 (9th ed. 2009).

Subdivision (b)(2) refers to an "order of attachment." The Commission uses the phrase "order of attachment" to refer to any court order commanding that the child be taken into custody. Some jurisdictions may refer to these orders as orders of arrest or arrest warrants. Such orders of attachment may direct the appropriate authorities to take the child to a detention facility, to the police station, to court, or to another place.

Wherever possible, community-based alternatives to secure detention facilities should be used. This preference is in keeping with the prohibition in T.C.A. § 37-1-114 against any detention or shelter care of children unless "there is no less drastic alternative to removal of the child from the custody of his parent, guardian or legal custodian available which would reasonably and adequately protect the child's health or safety or prevent the child's removal from the jurisdiction of the court pending a hearing."

The Commission recognizes that detention is a severe curtailment of the child's liberty and affects not only the child, but the child's parent, guardian or custodian. A child in detention is presumed to be innocent and retains all rights guaranteed to children facing charges but who are not detained. Accordingly, detention should be as brief as possible and should be used only when absolutely necessary to accomplish the objectives of the statute. The court should determine, on an individual basis, whether the child's continued detention is warranted under T.C.A. § 37-1-114 and that there are no less drastic alternatives available. The court should make specific findings of fact justifying continued detention.

A child alleged to be delinquent has the right to an attorney at the detention hearing, as well as all other stages of a delinquency proceeding. The court must inform the child of the right to an attorney at the beginning of the hearing, pursuant to the procedures in Rule 205. Also, in order for a child to effectively waive the right to an attorney, the court must comply with the process to obtain a knowing and voluntary waiver in that rule.

Courts should have an established practice in place for the appointment of attorneys as soon as possible prior to detention hearings. If at all practicable, detention hearings should not be continued for the sole reason of locating and appointing attorneys. The Commission recognizes that time constraints may interfere with this objective, but would stress that continued deprivation of liberty is a significant event in the life of a child.

Advisory Commission Comments [2017].

A new sentence (which reads, "If the required findings are made and the child remains in secure detention, a detention hearing must be held within the timeframes outlined in subdivision (b)(2)") is added to subdivision (b)(1) to provide further clarification that a detention hearing must be held even though the required 48-hour probable cause findings are made.

RULE 208. TRANSFER TO CRIMINAL COURT

[Amend Rule 208 and the original Advisory Commission Comment to read as follows (new text underlined; deleted text stricken):]

(a) Notice of Intent to Seek Transfer of Jurisdiction of Child to Criminal Court. The state must file written notice, in good faith and not for the purpose of delay, of the intent to seek transfer in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-134. The decision on whether or not the state will seek transfer must be made within 90 days of the child being charged with an offense and no less than 14 days prior to the transfer hearing or the adjudicatory hearing, whichever occurs first. This time period may be extended by the court for good cause. The written notice of intent to seek transfer must be filed at least 14 days prior to the transfer hearing. Once that notice is filed, the court shall not hear the case on its merits, but shall proceed to conduct a hearing only in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-134.

(b) Transfer Hearing.

(1) At the transfer hearing:

(A) A prosecutor shall represent the state;

(B) The child shall be represented by an attorney;

(C) The child may testify as a witness in his or her own behalf, and may call and examine other witnesses and produce other evidence on his or her own behalf, however no plea shall be accepted by the court; and

(D) Each witness shall testify under oath or affirmation and be subject to cross-examination.

(2) The same rules of evidence shall apply as are applicable to a preliminary examination, pursuant to the Tennessee Rules of Criminal Procedure.

(3) Unless the child appears in any way to be mentally ill or intellectually disabled, and unless personally or through counsel asserts that the child is mentally ill or intellectually disabled, it shall be presumed that the child is not committable to an institution for the mentally ill or intellectually disabled, and the court may so find. If mental illness is alleged, the court shall order psychological or psychiatric examination at any stage of the proceeding.

(4) If the court determines that the criteria for transfer have been satisfied and finds that there ~~are reasonable grounds~~is probable cause for transfer, the child may be transferred to criminal court.

(5) Any order of transfer shall specify the grounds for transfer and set bond if the offense is bailable pursuant to state law.

Advisory Commission Comments.

When considering whether "reasonable grounds" is equivalent to "probable cause," the courts in Tennessee have opined: "While no definition of 'reasonable grounds' is provided in the statute, the term has been used interchangeably with 'probable cause' by the courts of this state." *State v. Bowery,* 189 S.W.3d 240, 248 (Tenn. Crim. App. 2004); *State v. Melson,* 638 S.W.2d 342, 350 (Tenn. 1982); *State v. Humphreys,* 70 S.W.3d 752, 761 (Tenn. Crim. App. 2001).

Regarding the provision in subdivision (b)(l) that the child shall be represented by an attorney, the child must have the benefit of an attorney at the transfer hearing due to the significant ramifications if the child's case is transferred to adult court.

The U. S. Supreme Court's rulings in *Miller v. Alabama,* 132 S. Ct. 2455 (2012), *Graham v. Florida,* 560 U.S. 48 (2010), and *Roper v. Simmons,* 543 U.S. 551 (2005) recognized that courts must consider a juvenile's "lessened culpability" and greater "capacity for change". In accordance with these cases, the child must be represented by counsel in order to ensure consideration by the courts of all issues involving a minor defendant in a delinquency action, especially the unique nature of the juvenile offender.

Under T.C.A. § 37-1-134, the court must find reasonable grounds to believe that (i) the child committed the delinquent act as alleged, (ii) the child is not committable to an institution for the intellectually disabled or mentally ill, and (iii) the interests of the community require that the child be put under legal restraint or discipline. Regarding subdivision (b)(3) and § 37-1-134, it has been held by both the Tennessee Court of Appeals and Court of Criminal Appeals that, although the burden of proof is on the prosecution on such issue, there is a presumption of noncommittability similar to that relating to sanity in criminal trials. Such presumption can be rebutted by evidence introduced by the defendant, and in such event the burden would shift back to the prosecution to persuade the court the child is not committable. *See Howell v. Hodge,* 710 F.3d 381, 386 (6th Cir. 2013). The Commission suggests, however, that it is good practice in any case for the court to arrange for testing and evaluation, evidence of which may be introduced by either of the parties or the court on the issue of committability.

Subdivision (b)(1)(C) provides that no plea shall be accepted by the court during the transfer hearing. This does not preclude the parties from agreeing to terminate the transfer hearing prior to its completion and holding an adjudicatory hearing. Once a plea is accepted by the juvenile court, double jeopardy attaches and the matter may not be transferred to criminal court. *See Breed v. Jones,* 421 U.S. 519, 95 S. Ct. 1779 (1975) and *State v. Jackson,* 503 S.W.2d 185 (Tenn. 1973).

If the case is not transferred to criminal court, T.C.A. § 37-1-134 prohibits the judge who conducted the transfer hearing from presiding over the adjudicatory hearing on the petition if a party objects. Also, T.C.A. § 37-1-134 prohibits a judge who has conducted a transfer hearing from presiding at a hearing in the same case in criminal court. Such a situation might arise if a judge were sitting specially in criminal court, or if a person who was formerly the juvenile court judge were elected to the criminal court or to any other court which might hear such a case by special arrangement.

Advisory Commission Comments [2017].

Subdivision (b)(4) is amended to substitute the term "probable cause" for the term "reasonable grounds" because T.C.A. § 37-1-134 was amended to use the term "probable cause."

RULE 210. ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS

[Amend the original Advisory Commission Comment of Rule 210 to read as follows (new text underlined; deleted text stricken):]

Advisory Commission Comments.

It is the Commission's intent that the court consider only evidence which has been properly admitted during the adjudicatory hearing. The Commission recognizes that the court may have held one or more hearings prior to the adjudicatory hearing which may have resulted in the admission of evidence. Furthermore, the Commission recognizes that the court's file may contain reports and other items submitted by the Department, CASA, law enforcement, or service providers. Such reports and items may not be considered by the court unless properly admitted during the adjudicatory hearing.

This rule combines previous Rule 17 regarding Time Limits on Scheduling Adjudicatory Hearings and Rule 28 Adjudicatory Hearings. The Commission felt this to be logically consistent and would aid practitioners' use of the rule. This rule highlights the statutory framework of a delinquent or unruly case with regard to the adjudicatory hearing.

This rule does not apply to a violation of a Valid Court Order. ~~See the Appendix to these rules regarding Valid Court Orders.~~

During the adjudicatory hearing and prior to disposition, the court makes two distinct findings with regard to each child charged as a delinquent or unruly child: whether the evidence is sufficient to sustain the allegations in the petition, and, if so, whether the child is in need of treatment or rehabilitation. Upon making these findings, the court then proceeds to the dispositional hearing. T.C.A. § 37-1-129(b) states that upon a finding of guilt the court must "proceed immediately or at a postponed hearing" to determine whether the child is "in need of treatment or rehabilitation." This is consistent with the definition of "delinquent child" under T.C.A. § 37-1-102(b) ("delinquent child means a child who has committed a delinquent act and is in need of treatment and rehabilitation"), and T.C.A. § 37-1-129(f), which allows the court to continue the adjudicatory hearing to receive evidence bearing upon the issue of treatment and rehabilitation. Similarly, the definition of "unruly child" under T.C.A. § 37-1-102(b) also requires a finding of "in need of treatment and rehabilitation" in order to adjudicate the child to be an unruly child.

The Commission understands that many courts may, in an effort to achieve judicial economy, and absent contrary circumstances, elect to conduct both the "treatment and rehabilitation" phase of the adjudicatory hearing and the dispositional hearing immediately after the guilt phase of the adjudicatory hearing. In the event the court continues the adjudicatory hearing to receive evidence bearing upon the issue of treatment and rehabilitation, the court has the authority pursuant to T.C.A. § 37-1-129(f) to issue orders regarding the child pending the resumption of the hearing.

The Commission notes that T.C.A. § 37-1-129(b) states that the commission of acts which constitute a felony or that reflect recidivistic delinquency is sufficient to sustain a finding that the child is in need of treatment or rehabilitation.

The Commission notes that the Juvenile Offender Act, T.C.A. § 55-10-701 et seq., also known as the Drug Free Youth Act, requires the adjudicatory court to send to the Department of Safety an order of denial of driving privileges when the child is "convicted of the offense." As explained above, a conviction does not necessarily lead to an adjudication of delinquency due to the added requirement that the court find that the child is in need of treatment and rehabilitation. All parties must be aware of the court's duty under the Act.

The new rule changes the requirement that the adjudicatory hearing be "scheduled for adjudication" within either 30 or 90 days to a requirement that the adjudicatory hearing be "heard."

The varying time limits in these rules for children in custody or detention and children not in custody indicate the Commission's strong intent that cases involving children in custody, and especially in secure detention, be given priority on the docket. Of course, all hearings should be scheduled and held as speedily as possible in the interest of providing timely treatment for children. The Commission recognizes the fact that a child's perception of time is quite different from that of an adult, with shorter periods of time being felt as being much extended, so that it is important that whatever action is taken be taken expeditiously, within the limits of practicability.

There are instances, however, where it will be quite appropriate to allow for a relatively longer period of time prior to disposition, in particular, for the child to prove to the court that a less restrictive disposition may be desirable in the case, for example. This is the purpose of the longer 90-day limit in cases in which children are not being held in custody, and of the provisions allowing for extensions of the time limits. Another valid reason for extensions of the limits would be to obtain psychological evaluations and testing which could not be obtained within the specified time limits.

In any case in which the time limits prescribed are not complied with, or in which the provisions for continuances are not complied with, the court may dismiss the charges with prejudice where it determines that failure to comply with the time limits constitutes a violation of the child's right to a speedy trial. In any case in which the time limits prescribed are not complied with, or in which the provisions for extensions are not complied with, the court may discharge the child from the jurisdiction of the juvenile court if the court determines that the interests of justice so require.

These rules do not require a pretrial conference; however, the Commission encourages courts to schedule a pretrial conference or settlement date during which negotiations may occur with the parties and counsel, law enforcement, victims, and the district attorney.

Advisory Commission Comments [2017].

The last sentence of the third paragraph of the Advisory Commission Comments rule is deleted. That sentence (which provided "See the Appendix to these rules regarding Valid Court Orders") should have been deleted in the comprehensive revision of the Rules of Juvenile Procedure effective July 1, 2016, because the appendix to which it referred was deleted at that time.

RULE 211. DISPOSITIONAL HEARINGS

[Amend the original Advisory Commission Comment of Rule 211 to read as follows (new text underlined; deleted text stricken):]

Advisory Commission Comments.

The purpose of a dispositional hearing is to design an appropriate plan to meet the needs of the child and to achieve the objectives of the state in exercising jurisdiction. When possible, the initial approach should involve working with the child and the family in their own home so that the appropriate community resources may be involved in care, supervision, and treatment according to the needs of the child.

In choosing among statutorily permissible dispositions in delinquent and unruly cases, the judge should select the least restrictive disposition both in terms of kind and duration that is appropriate to the seriousness of the offense, the degree of culpability indicated by the circumstances of the particular case, and the age and prior record of the child. The preference is for the child to be treated and rehabilitated through community-level resources when appropriate and available. The Commission encourages the making of written findings of fact and reasons for ordering particular dispositions within the law.

If a child alleged to be unruly is placed under a "valid court order" pursuant to § 31.303(f)(3) of Title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the dispositional hearing and order shall be in accordance with the federal regulations~~, found in the Appendix to these rules~~.

At the dispositional hearing, it is appropriate that youth services and probation officers be witnesses regarding admissible evidence of which they have knowledge. Youth services officers or probation officers may act as a fact witness.

Although a report may be admissible as reliable hearsay, all the contents of the report may not be reliable hearsay. This is especially important when the source gives an opinion that the person is not qualified to give.

Advisory Commission Comments [2017].

The third paragraph of the Advisory Commission Comments is amended by deleting a reference to the appendix that was deleted in the comprehensive revision of the Rules of Juvenile Procedure, effective July 1, 2016.

RULE 302. PROCEDURES UPON TAKING CHILD INTO CUSTODY

[Amend the original Advisory Commission Comment to Rule 302 to read as follows (new text underlined; deleted text stricken):]

Advisory Commission Comments.

Subdivision (a) establishes the procedure for obtaining a probable cause determination when the child has been removed from the home due to the existence of exigent circumstances and without a court order. T.C.A. § 37-1-~~128(b)(2)~~117(b) currently requires both the probable cause determination defined in T.C.A. § 37-1-114(a)(2) and a court order for removal of a child from the child's parent, guardian, legal custodian or the person who physically possesses or controls the child. T.C.A. § 37-1-113(a)(3) also references the probable cause determination contained in T.C.A. § 37-1-114(a)(2). Reading these three statutes in conjunction, T.C.A. § 37-1-113(a)(3) must be interpreted to allow the taking of physical possession of the child only, prior to the judicial probable cause determination and order. Subdivision (a) provides a time limit for the judicial probable cause determination and issuance of the statutorily-required order prior to the preliminary hearing. The judge or magistrate should be contacted after removal to make the probable cause determination and to issue a written order within the 48 hour limit. These requests and determinations are made *ex parte* as to the parent, guardian, or legal custodian. Non-judicial days are included in the time computation and shall not extend the 48 hour limit. As these requests address the immediate protection of the child, as referenced by T.C.A. § 37-1-~~128(b)(2)~~117(b), the time limit requires that judges and magistrates be available at inconvenient hours to make probable cause determinations.

The probable cause determination in subdivision (a) must be based on a written affidavit reciting the facts, which may be sworn to in person or by audio visual electronic means. *Black's Law Dictionary* defines affidavit as "(a) voluntary declaration of facts written down and sworn to by the declarant before an officer authorized to administer oaths." *Black's Law Dictionary* 66 (9th ed. 2009).

The time limit of 48 hours tracks the time period in Rule 203 regarding the probable cause determination required after a warrantless arrest of a child alleged to be delinquent. That time limit is based on *Gerstein v. Pugh,* 420 U.S. 103 (1974), *County of Riverside v. M McLaughlin,* 500 U.S. 44, 57 (1991), *Cox v. Turley,* 506 F.2d 1347, 1353 (6th Cir. 1974), *State v. Bishop,* No. W2010-01207-SC-R11-CD, 2014 Tenn. LEXIS 189, 2008 WL 888198 (Tenn. 2013), and *State v. Huddleston,* 924 S.W.2d 666 (Tenn. 1996). It is reasonable to apply the same time limits for a probable cause determination by an independent magistrate to (1) a delinquent child arrested without a warrant, and (2) a parent whose

child is removed without a prior court order, as well as the child who is removed in a dependent and neglect case.

If a child is taken into custody pursuant to either subdivisions (a) or (b) (which is applicable to the situation where the court issues a protective custody order prior to the child being removed from the home), a preliminary hearing must be held within 72 hours, excluding non-judicial days, of when the child was taken into custody, pursuant to T.C.A. § 37-1-117. Pursuant to Rule 111, judges may consider entering a scheduling order at a preliminary hearing, especially when the child is in the custody of the Department of Children's Services. The scheduling order may include, but is not limited to, the dates of the Department's child and family team meeting, ratification hearing, foster care review board, adjudication, and dispositional hearings.

The second sentence of subdivision (c) is applicable to a child who is placed in custody of the Department of Children's Services. Federal law requires a "contrary to the welfare" finding in the first order that removes the child from the home in order for the child to be eligible for Title IV-E funding. 45 C.F.R. § 1356.21(E).

Advisory Commission Comments [2017].

The first paragraph of the original Advisory Commission Comment is amended by changing two references to T.C.A. § 37-1-128(b) to T.C.A. § 37-1-117(b), in light of the amendments to the statutes.