

Juvenile Court Proceedings—Standards of Proof

Shelter Care Hearing—

- (1) Whether there is probable cause to support the petition and
- (2) Whether it is a matter of immediate and urgent necessity to remove the minor from the home.

Adjudicatory Hearing—Whether the minor is abused, neglected, or dependent based on a preponderance of the evidence.

*standard rules of evidence apply

Dispositional Hearing—Whether the parents are unfit, unwilling, or unable to care for the minor, with placement made in accordance with the best interest of the minor. Preponderance of the evidence standard applies.

*relaxed rules of evidence apply

Fitness Hearing—Whether, by clear and convincing evidence, the State has proven the parents are unfit, unwilling, or unable to care for the minor.

*standard rules of evidence apply

Best Interest Hearing—Whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, it is in the best interest of the minor to terminate parental rights.

*relaxed rules of evidence apply