

Measure 8

Service of Process to Parties

Percentage of cases in which both parents receive written service of process on the original petition.

What is the goal? *Due Process.*

The purpose of this measure is to help courts make sure that they consistently give both parents proper written notice of child abuse and neglect cases. Written notice gives parents the opportunity to appear in court and be heard and documents the court's adherence to due process. This is an important measure because the presence of parties is not only fundamental to the fairness of the court process but also results in better decisions for children.

How is it calculated?

This measure is designed to determine the percentage of parties entitled to be served who actually receive service of process on the original petition. Service of process of the original petition means that parents receive a copy of the original petition and a written "summons" instructing them to appear in court and contest the case if they wish to avoid losing rights

concerning the child. The court must determine which parties are entitled to service of process. In cases where legal guardians or custodians are not involved, two parents are the "both parties" requiring service. In cases where legal guardians are involved, they must also receive service of process. Service to one putative father is counted as service of process on the father. Select and count the number of cases that meet the criteria for the report by who was entitled to service of process. Raw numbers and percentages should be reported.

How is it interpreted?

To determine who is not receiving service of process, the percentage of mothers, fathers, and legal guardians entitled to service who actually received service of process should be considered. This percentage will enable courts to determine parties who are not being served, and to investigate the reasons why in order to ensure that all eligible

parties are served. Examining rates of service of process over time helps to give context to any sharp changes in the data, and helps validate true fluctuations and patterns of service of process rates.

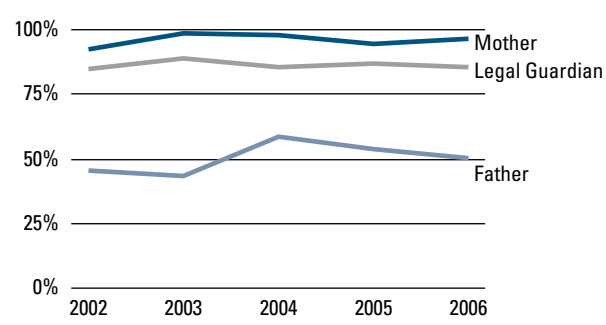
What are related measures?

Percentage of cases in which there is documentation that notice is given to parties in advance of the next hearing.

What is required to measure?

- Case number or child identifier
- Parties entitled to service
- Party type
- Date of service of petition
- Case status code (case closed)
- Case status date (date case closed)

Service of Process for Closed Cases 2002-2006



Percentage of Cases Where All Parties Received Service of Process

