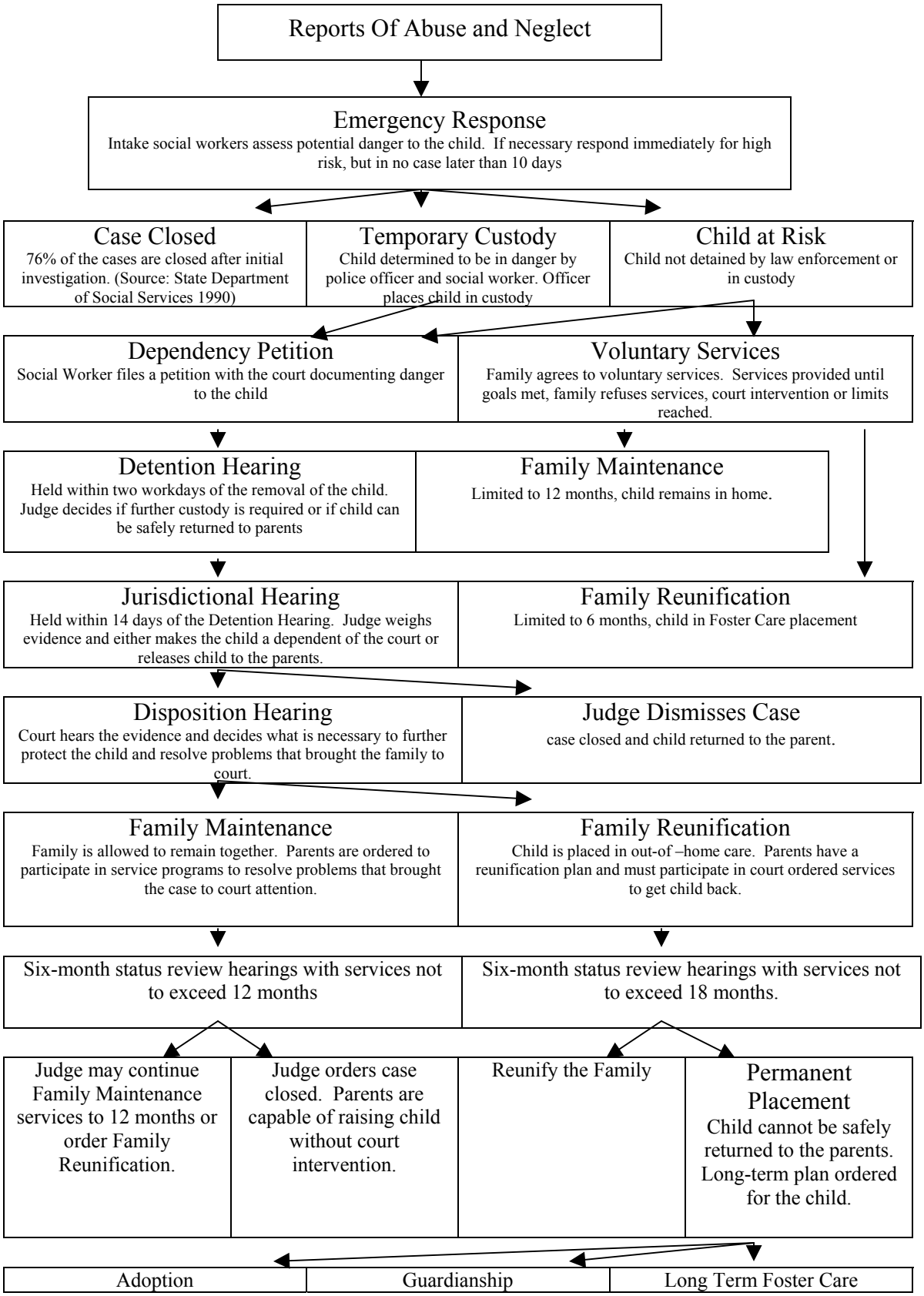
Reports Of Abuse and Neglect
Emergency Response
Intake social workers assess potential danger to the child. If necessary respond immediately for high risk, but in no case later than 10 days
Case Closed
76% of the cases are closed after initial investigation. (Source: State Department of Social Services 1990)
Temporary Custody
Child determined to be in danger by police officer and social worker. Officer places child in custody
Child at Risk
Child not detained by law enforcement or in custody
Dependency Petition
Social Worker files a petition with the court documenting danger to the child
Voluntary Services
Family agrees to voluntary services. Services provided until goals met, family refuses services, court intervention or limits reached.
Detention Hearing
Held within two workdays of the removal of the child. Judge decides if further custody is required or if child can be safely returned to parents
Family Maintenance
Limited to 12 months, child remains in home.
Jurisdictional Hearing
Held within 14 days of the Detention Hearing. Judge weighs evidence and either makes the child a dependent of the court or releases child to the parents.
Family Reunification
Limited to 6 months, child in Foster Care placement
Disposition Hearing
Court hears the evidence and decides what is necessary to further protect the child and resolve problems that brought the family to court.
Judge Dismisses Case
case closed and child returned to the parent.
Family Maintenance
Family is allowed to remain together. Parents are ordered to participate in service programs to resolve problems that brought the case to court attention.
Family Reunification
Child is placed in out-of –home care. Parents have a reunification plan and must participate in court ordered services to get child back.
Six-month status review hearings with services not to exceed 12 months
Six-month status review hearings with services not to exceed 18 months.
Judge may continue Family Maintenance services to 12 months or order Family Reunification.
Judge orders case closed. Parents are capable of raising child without court intervention.
Reunify the Family
Permanent Placement
Child cannot be safely returned to the parents. Long-term plan ordered for the child.
Adoption
Guardianship
Long Term Foster Care