

**Intervention Hearing**  
**(Child is not removed from the home)**  
S.C. Code Ann. § 63-7-1650

*Time Frame: Held within 35 days of receipt of the complaint by family court.*

DSS may file for the authority to intervene and provide protective services if it determines by a preponderance of the evidence that the child has been abused or neglected, and that the child cannot be adequately protected without intervention. Removal from the home is not required. An Intervention Hearing is to be held within 35 days of receipt of the complaint by the family court.

1. The court must assure that the agency has complied with due process requirements, which include service of a summons, complaint, and notification of right to counsel and hearing date. No responsive pleading is required.
2. The court must find by a *preponderance of the evidence* that (1) the child is abused or neglected as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 63-7-20, and (2) the child cannot be protected from further harm without intervention.
3. The family court will review and approve a treatment plan, and include the terms of the plan in the court order. The plan must:
  - a) Detail changes in parental behavior or home conditions that must be made;
  - b) Detail services which will be provided to the family;
  - c) Be prepared with the participation of parents, the child, and other agencies or individuals that will provide services;
4. The plan must be submitted to the court at the hearing. If changes are ordered, a revised plan must be submitted to the court and parties within two weeks. S.C. Code Ann. § 63-7-1670.
5. The court shall set a specific date when the treatment goals must be achieved. The court by order may set a date for a review hearing.
6. If services are not to be terminated within 12 months the department must schedule a review hearing. S.C. Code Ann. § 63-7-1670.
7. The court shall set a specific date when the court's jurisdiction will end, which is not to exceed 18 months. Jurisdiction can be extended if, on motion of any party, the court finds there is clear and convincing evidence that the child is threatened with harm unless services continue. S.C. Code Ann. § 63-7-1670.