

Rule 44. Findings and conclusions.

(a) If, upon the conclusion of an adjudicatory hearing, the court determines that the material allegations of the petition are established, it ~~shall~~will announce its ruling. The court's findings of fact ~~upon which it bases its determination~~ may also be announced or reserved for entry by the court in an order as provided in these ~~r~~Rules. In cases concerning any minor who ~~has~~ violated any federal, state, or local law, or municipal ordinance, or any person under 21 years of age who ~~has~~ violated any such law or ordinance before becoming 18 years of age, findings of fact ~~shall~~will not be necessary. If, after such a determination, the dispositional hearing is not held immediately and the minor is in detention or shelter care, the court ~~shall~~will determine whether the minor ~~shall~~will be released or continued in detention, shelter care, or the least restrictive alternative available.

(b) In proceedings under Utah Code sections 80-6-402, 80-6-503, and 80-6-504, and in abuse, neglect, dependency, termination of parental rights, and contested adoption cases, the court ~~shall~~will enter findings of fact and conclusions of law with specific reference to each statutory requirement considered, setting forth the complete basis for its determination. Such findings and conclusions may be prepared by counsel at the direction of the court, but ~~shall~~will be reviewed and modified as deemed appropriate by the court prior to the court's acceptance and signing of the documents submitted by counsel.

(c) The court may at any time during or at the conclusion of any hearing, dismiss a petition and terminate the proceedings relating to the minor if such action is in the interest of justice and the welfare of the minor. ~~The court shall dismiss any petition which has not been proven.~~

(d) If a petition has not been proven in a non-delinquency case, the court will dismiss the petition.

(e) If an allegation has not been proven during a juvenile delinquency trial, the court will enter a finding and disposition that an allegation is *Not True*.

(~~f~~e) After the dispositional hearing, the court ~~shall~~will enter an appropriate order or decree of disposition.

(~~g~~e) Adjudication of a petition alleging abuse, neglect, or dependency of a child ~~shall~~will be conducted also in accordance with Utah Code sections 80-3-201 and 80-3-401.

(~~h~~e) Adjudication of a petition to review the removal of a child from foster care ~~shall~~will be conducted also in accordance with Utah Code section 80-3-502.

Effective November 1, 2025