



Department of Law

FY22 Child Protection Section Overview

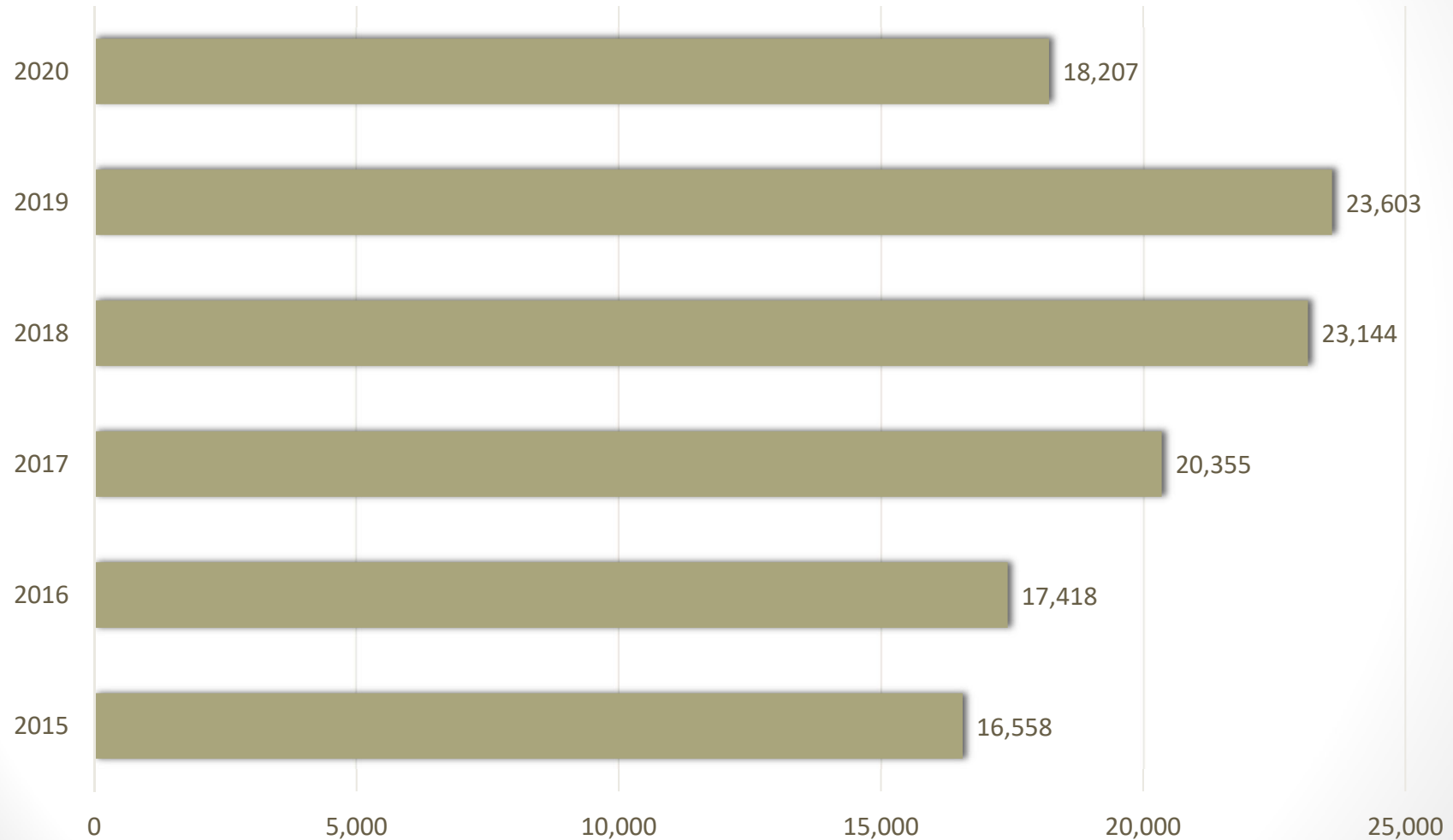
Carla R. Erickson
Chief Assistant Attorney General
Child Protection Section

February 2022

Child Protection Attorneys

- Represent the Office of Children's Services (OCS) in all court involved Child in Need of Aid (CINA) cases.
- 7 offices across the state:
 - Anchorage
 - Palmer
 - Bethel – Partially staffed through Anchorage
 - Nome/Kotzebue – staffed through Anchorage
 - Kenai
 - Fairbanks – Partially staffed through Anchorage
 - Juneau

Reports of Harm Per Year to OCS



How many reports go to court?

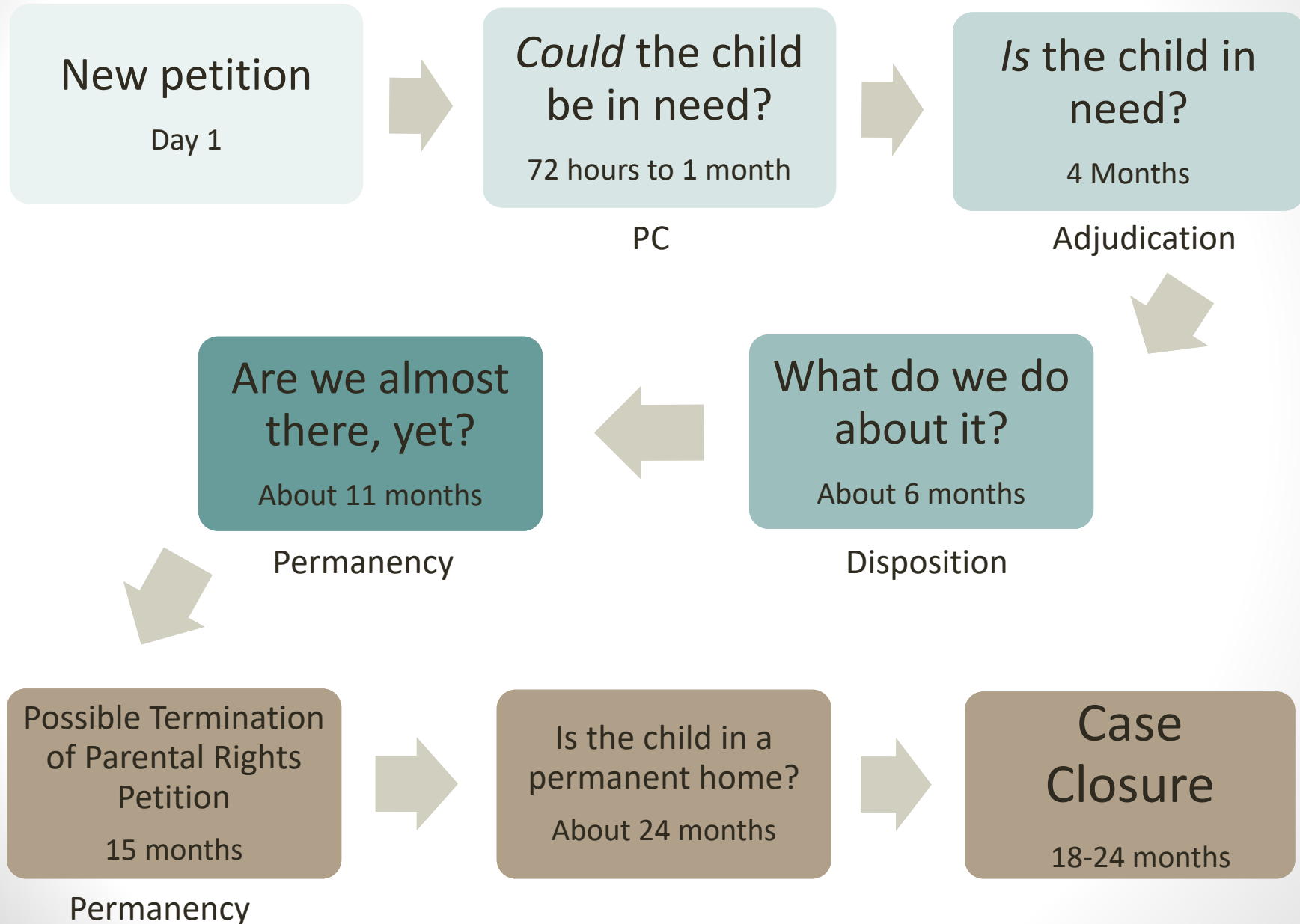
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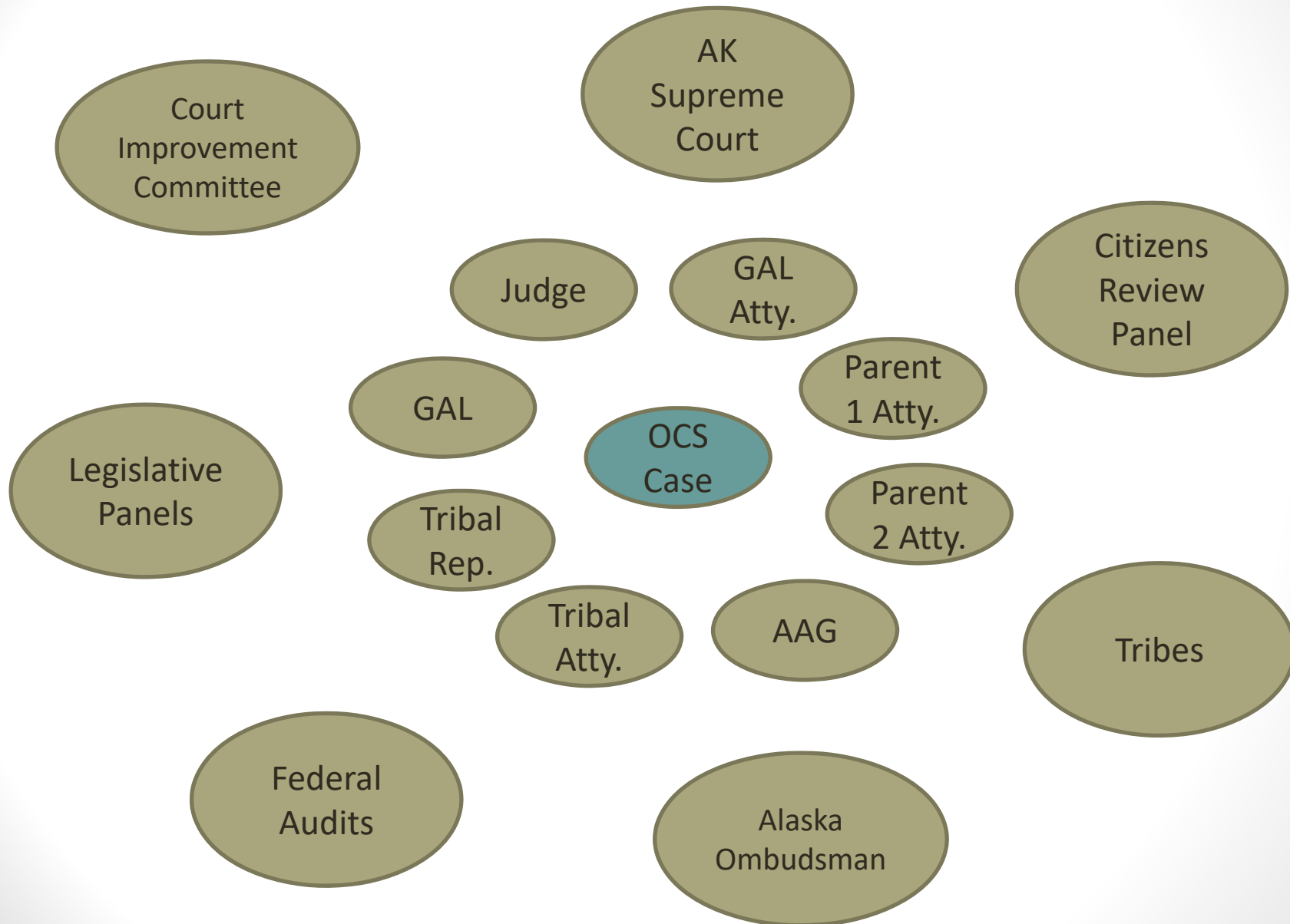
Court Proceedings of a Child in Need of Aid case

2/11/2022



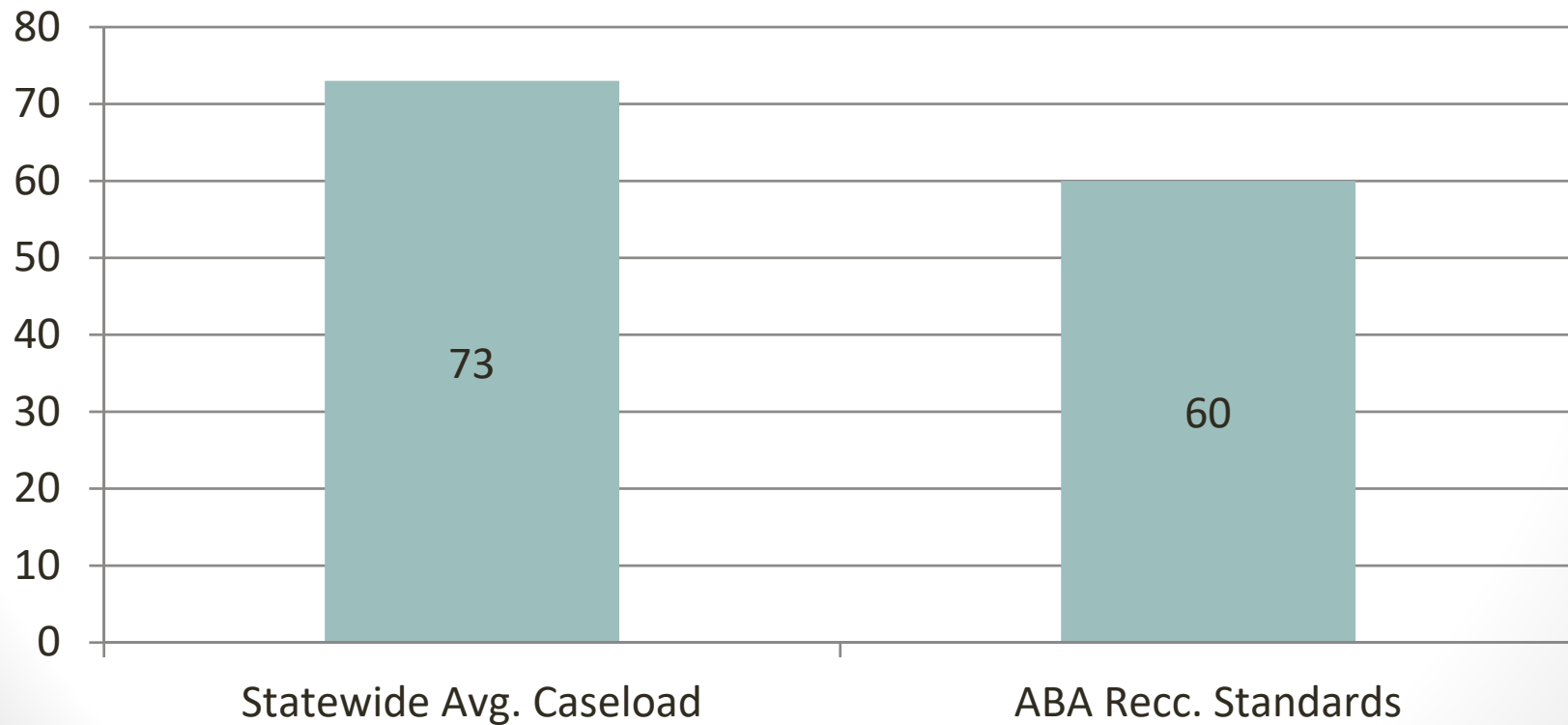
Checks and Balances

2/11/2022



Child Protection Attorney Caseloads

24 Case-carrying Assistant Attorney Generals Caseload Averages



An Average Month for an AAG



60 court appearances per month

Counsel OCS daily on multiple cases



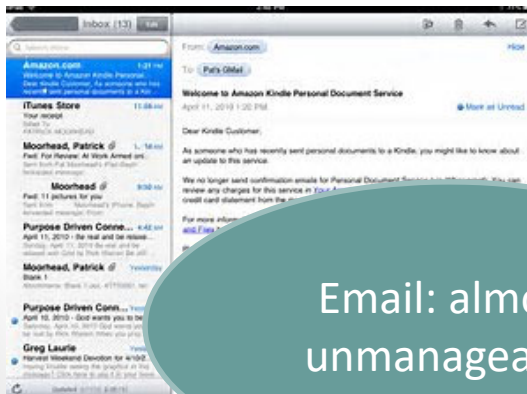
Approx. 50-115 family cases



5-10 trials per month



20 meetings with parents and their counsel, GALs, service providers, etc.



Email: almost unmanageable





Misconception:

OCS profits by taking kids away from their parents.

Fact:

In reality, Alaska is only reimbursed about 38 cents for every Alaskan dollar spent. Child Protective Services is not a money-making venture.

Misconception:

Children are rarely returned to their parents.

Fact:

In 2021, over half of the children who left foster care went home to their families.

Misconception:
OCS hearings are secret.

Fact:
Most OCS hearings are open to the public
and have been since 2005.

Citation: AS 47.10.070(c)

Thank you.