

IN THE YOUTH COURT OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY,  
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

In the Interest of \_\_\_\_\_, a Child

Cause No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Court  
File No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDER ADJUDICATING CHILD  
AS AN ABUSED OR NEGLECTED CHILD OR SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILD**

**THIS DAY THIS CAUSE** came on to be heard and this Court having heard and considered the same does hereby find that the Child has been charged by Petition as (an abused; a neglected; a sexually abused) child;

**AND FURTHER**, in accordance with Section 43-21-551 of Mississippi's Youth Court Law, that this adjudicatory hearing has been held:

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. *If child is not in shelter and hearing has not been continued for good cause— within ninety (90) days after the filing of the petition;*
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. *If child is in shelter and hearing has not been postponed for reasons set forth in Subsections 43-21-551(3)(a),-(b) or (c)— not later than twenty-one (21) days after the child had been first been taken into custody);*

**AND FURTHER**, in accordance with Subsection 43-21-557(1) of Mississippi's Youth Court Law, that this Court at the beginning of the adjudicatory hearing had verified the name, age and residence of the Child who is the subject of the cause and ascertained the relationship of the parties, each to the other; had ascertained whether all necessary parties are present and identified all persons participating in the hearing; had ascertained whether the notice requirements have been complied with and, if not, whether the affected parties intelligently waived compliance in accordance with Section 43-21-507 of Mississippi's Youth Court Law; had explained to the parties the purpose of the hearing and the possible dispositional alternatives thereof; and had explained to the parties: (i) the right to counsel; (ii) the right to remain silent; (iii) the right to subpoena witnesses; (iv) the right to cross-examine witnesses; and (v) the right to appeal;

**AND FURTHER**, in accordance with Subsections 43-21-201(1) and (2) and Subsection 43-21-557(2) of Mississippi's Youth Court Law, that this Court has ascertained whether the parties before the youth court are represented by counsel; that the Child is represented by and has had a reasonable time to consult with an attorney, whether same was appointed by this Court or retained by the Child, who is now present before the Court for this hearing; if a party other than the Child is not represented by counsel, this Court ascertained whether same party understood his or her right to counsel; that if a party wished to retain counsel, this Court continued the hearing for a reasonable time to allow same party to obtain and consult with counsel of his or her choosing;

**AND FURTHER**, in accordance with Subsection 43-21-557(3) of Mississippi's Youth Court Law, that this Court inquired whether the parties admitted or denied the allegations in the petition as provided in Section 43-21-553 of Mississippi's Youth Court Law, upon which the parties denied the allegations;

**AND FURTHER**, in accordance with Subsection 43-21-559(1) of Mississippi's Youth Court Law, that this

Court, in arriving at its adjudicatory decision, had considered only evidence which has been formally admitted at the adjudicatory hearing; that all testimony at this hearing has been under oath; that a portion of the sworn testimony may have been in narrative form; and that this Court admitted any evidence that would have been admissible in a civil proceeding;

**AND FURTHER**, in accordance with Subsection 43-21-559(4) of Mississippi's Youth Court Law, that this Court, at the conclusion of the evidence, had given the Child and the parties an opportunity to present closing argument;

**WHEREUPON**, this Court having conducted this hearing accordingly, and as otherwise required by law, finds that the State has proved the charge of (an abused; a neglected; a sexually abused) child by a preponderance of the evidence;

**THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the Child be adjudicated (an abused; a neglected; a sexually abused) child.

**ORDERED** this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

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**Youth Court Judge**