

In re: (children's names) (date/s of birth)

Superior Court for Juvenile Matters at: (address)

[Docket Number]

Date: (day, month, year)

## **SOCIAL STUDY IN SUPPORT OF TERMINATION PETITION**

**[NOTE: DO NOT REPEAT INFORMATION IN MORE THAN ONE SECTION]**

### **SECTION A. DEMOGRAPHICS**

1. Children for Whom Petitions are Filed [List each one separately]

- Name
- Address
- Date of Birth
- Indian Tribe:

[**Note:** Dates of birth need to be verified through birth certificates. Please put "verified" next to any date of birth for whom you have a birth certificate.]

2. Parents: (List each one separately)

- Name
- Address [or last known address]
- Prison Identification Number [if applicable]
- Date of Birth

3. Legal Guardian [delete if not applicable]

- Name
- Address [or last known address]
- Prison Identification Number [if applicable]
- Date of Birth

4. Court Intervenor [delete if not applicable]

- Name
- Address
- Relationship to Child
- Date of Birth

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5. Minor Sibling for Whom Petition is not Filed [name each separately]

- Name
- Current placement
- Current legal status
- Date of Birth

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## SECTION B. LEGAL HISTORY

1. Reason for termination of parental rights petition: [Summarize concisely the reason for the petition. For example: Mother has unresolved substance abuse issues from which she has failed to rehabilitate.]
2. Reason for initial removal of children: [Provide a clear description of the problems or issues that caused the child to be placed in DCF's care.]
3. Previous history with DCF or any other child welfare agency: [Be very concise. Include dates, what facts were verified (not just allegations) whether there was a substantiation or unsubstantiation, case disposition, services offered/referred.]
4. Previous history with Superior Court for Juvenile Matters: [Include dates of all neglect and TPR determinations.]
5. Paternity - [Identify how paternity was established, ie. acknowledgment of paternity, issue of marriage or court order.]

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## SECTION C. FAMILY HISTORY

1. Summary: [Include each parent and child. Include only family history that is relevant to the current circumstances.]

[Relevant history may include, but is not limited to consideration of the following:

- Child protection services history of parents (either as children or as parents)
- Discipline received as a child
- Substance use
- Intimate partner violence
- Mental Health issues
- Current family relationships
- Juvenile justice or criminal behavior (note: must clarify arrests vs. convictions)
- Sex abuse

2. Relative resources and other social supports: [List all relatives and other persons considered for placement, when they were identified, and why child is not placed with them.]

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## SECTION D. CURRENT ASSESSMENT

[Discussion shall include, but not be limited to:

- prior history of services and level of participation, including dates (do not repeat services that are discussed in the next session regarding specific steps)]
- parent's understanding of child protection concerns
- substance use
- employment status
- living arrangements and social relationships (ie. Who frequents the home and with whom do they frequently associate)]

1. Mother
2. Father
3. Each child [include any specialized needs, educational information, developmental needs, emotional and behavioral status, independent living]

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**SECTION E. CURRENT PLACEMENT**

[Describe type of placement, names of caregivers and other household members, school, activities. Give the court a good picture of each child's current placement. Include information regarding the caregiver's level of commitment and perspective of plan.]

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## SECTION F. REASONABLE EFFORTS TO REUNIFY WITH PARENTS/GUARDIAN

1. A. [If applicable, list date on which the court made reasonable effort finding and what the finding was.]
- B. [If applicable, why parents are unable or unwilling to reunify OR date court made unable/unwilling finding. List each parent separately.]
2. Specific Steps [This should be since the case opening]

[List the date of the preliminary steps and any subsequent steps that were entered by the court. For each step- separately, list referrals for the step, goal of the referral, parent's level of participation, level of benefit to parent and outcome. Delete steps that were not ordered by the court or that are not applicable. ]

A. Keep all appointments set by or with DCF. Cooperate with DCF home visits, announced or unannounced, and visits by the child(ren)'s court-appointed attorney and/or guardian ad litem.

1. Mother:

2. Father:

B. Let DCF, your attorney and the attorney for the child(ren) know where you and the children are at all times.

1. Mother:

2. Father:

C. Take part in counseling and make progress toward the identified treatment goals:

Parenting

1. Mother:

2. Father:

Individual

1. Mother:

2. Father:

Family

1. Mother:

2. Father:

D. Accept in-home support services referred by DCF and cooperate with them.

1. Mother:

2. Father:

E. Submit to a substance abuse evaluation and follow the recommendations about treatment, including inpatient treatment if necessary, aftercare and relapse prevention.

1. Mother:

2. Father:

F. Submit to random drug testing; the time and method of the testing will be up to DCF to decide.

1. Mother:

2. Father:

G. Not use illegal drugs or abuse alcohol or medicine.

1. Mother:

2. Father:

H. Cooperate with service providers recommended for parenting/individual/family counseling, in-home support services and/or substance abuse assessment/treatment:

1. Mother:

2. Father:

I. Cooperate with court ordered evaluations or testing.

1. Mother:

2. Father:

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J. Sign releases allowing DCF to communicate with service providers to check on your attendance, cooperation and progress toward identified goals, and for use in future proceedings with this court. Sign the release within 30 days.

1. Mother:

2. Father:

K. Sign releases allowing your child's attorney and guardian ad litem to review your child's medical, psychological, psychiatric and/or educational records.

1. Mother:

2. Father:

L. Get and/or maintain adequate housing and a legal income.

1. Mother:

2. Father:

M. Immediately let DCF know about any changes in the make-up of the household to make sure that the change does not hurt the health and safety of the child(ren).

1. Mother:

2. Father:

N. Get and/or cooperate with a restraining/protective order and/or other appropriate safety plan approved by DCF to avoid more domestic violence incidents.

1. Mother:

2. Father:

O. Attend and compete an appropriate domestic violence program.

1. Mother:

2. Father:

P. Not get involved with the criminal justice system. Cooperate with the Office of Adult Probation or parole officer and follow your conditions of probation or parole.

1. Mother:

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2. Father:

Q. Take care of the child(ren)'s physical, educational, medical, or emotional needs, including keeping the child(ren)'s appointments with his/her/their medical, psychological, psychiatric, or educational providers.

1. Mother:

2. Father:

R. Cooperate with the child(ren)'s therapy.

1. Mother:

2. Father:

S. Make all necessary child-care arrangements to make sure the child(ren) is/are properly supervised and cared for by appropriate caretaker(s).

1. Mother:

2. Father:

T. Keep the child(ren) in the State of Connecticut while this case is going on unless you get permission from the DCF or the court to take them out of state. You must get permission first.

1. Mother:

2. Father:

U. Visit the child(ren) as often as DCF permits.

1. Mother:

2. Father:

V. Within thirty (30) days of this order, and at any time after that, tell DCF in writing the name, address, family relationship and birth date of any person(s) who you would like the department to investigate and consider as a placement resource for the child(ren).

1. Mother:

2. Father:

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W. Tell DCF the names and addresses of the grandparents of the child(ren).

1. Mother:

2. Father:

X. Additional Steps ordered by the Court [Insert steps]

1. Mother:

2. Father:

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**SECTION G. CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE**

[Describe child's reaction to reunification efforts, child's bond to caregivers, child's adjustment to placement, child's preference of living arrangements, other relevant information from child's case plan. Include child's stated position, if age appropriate.]

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SECTION H. GROUNDS FOR TERMINATION [include a short paragraph as to each ground as the facts that support the ground]

- A. Abandonment
- B. Failure to Rehabilitate
  - (B1) committed to Department of Children and Families
  - (B2) in the care of Department of Children and Families for at least fifteen months
- C. No on going parent child relationship
- D. Acts of Omission or Commission
- E. Prior termination
- F. Parent killed or assaulted another child of the parent
- G. Sexual assault conviction in conception of the child

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SECTION I. SEVEN STATUTORY TPR FINDINGS [Very briefly summarize or refer to information already included in previous sections. Add any additional information not already include. Do not repeat previous sections verbatim.]

1. The timeliness, nature and extent of services offered, provided and made available to the parent and the child by an agency to facilitate the reunion of the child with the parent.
2. Whether the Department of Children and Families has made reasonable efforts to reunite the family pursuant to the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, as amended from time to time.
3. The terms of any applicable court order entered into and agreed upon by any individual or agency and the parent, and the extent to which all parties have fulfilled their obligations under such order.
4. The feelings and emotional ties of the child with respect to the child's parents, any guardian of such child's person and any person who has exercised physical care, custody or control of the child for at least one year and with whom the child has developed significant emotional ties.
5. The age of the child.
6. The efforts the parent has made to adjust such parent's circumstances, conduct, or conditions to make it in the best interest of the child to return such child home in the foreseeable future, including, but not limited to, (A) the extent to which the parent has maintained contact with the child as part of an effort to reunite the child with the parent, provided the court may give weight to incidental visitations, communications or contributions, and (B) the maintenance of regular contact or communication with the guardian or other custodian of the child.
7. The extent to which a parent has been prevented from maintaining a meaningful relationship with the child by the unreasonable act or conduct of the other parent of the child, or the unreasonable act of any other person or by the economic circumstances of the parent.

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SECTION J. BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD

[Describe why termination is in the best interests of each child in two or three concise paragraphs.

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## SECTION K. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is the recommendation of the Department of Children and Families that the court terminate the parental rights of: [parent] and appoint the Commissioner statutory parent for [child].  
[Add any other recommendation.]

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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