

PERMANENCY PLANNING

Permanency Teaming

25-3 Page 1 of 2

Policy

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) shall actively include all persons connected to any child who comes to the attention of DCF in the process of engaging, assessing and planning for the child's best interests in order to achieve safety, permanency and well-being. These persons shall comprise the child's Child and Family Permanency Team (CF-PT).

The CF-PT shall be responsible for permanency planning for the child.

Purpose

Permanency teaming shall be the primary means by which social workers engage a child's natural network (legal parents, extended family, other important adults) and professional supports and conduct ongoing case management activities.

The purpose of CF-PT is:

- to ensure decisions are made on behalf of the child with:
 - the child's active participation (or the representation of the child's voice)
 - the active participation of parents and family members
 - the child's natural support network
 - to support the continuity of safe family relationships and connections with other caring adults.
-

Permanency Practice

Child and family permanency teaming is an intentional casework process that maintains important relationships for a child and ensures ongoing progress towards permanence.

Social work staff shall proactively engage a child's and family's team on a regular basis, with the targeted result that crisis situations are more likely to be avoided and timely permanency is more likely to be achieved.

Cross reference: Permanency Planning Practice Guide, 25-0PG

Permanency Teaming

CF-PT is a collaborative approach to permanency planning for children involved with DCF.

The desired outcomes of permanency teaming are:

- the preservation or identification of a legal parent or permanent guardian
- the achievement and maintenance of legal permanency for the child
- the establishment and strengthening of a natural network of supportive relationships.

As part of the teaming process, it will be necessary to have discussions with individuals/team members separately and/or together to address emerging issues, share information, clarify expectations/information, address conflict and to ensure all parties are prepared to participate in permanency team meetings.

An agenda will be developed for the permanency team meetings to ensure all parties are prepared and informed of the topic areas for discussion.

PERMANENCY PLANNING

Permanency Teaming

25-3 Page 2 of 2

Family Search and Engagement

Family search and engagement (FSE) is an important tool from the initial point of contact between DCF and the family and throughout the casework process. In addition, when a child needs foster care services, FSE shall be used to keep them connected to their family and to the community of origin.

Social workers shall explore the interest, willingness and ability of each family member and all significant adults, both related and unrelated to the child, to become members of the child's permanency team.

Cross-reference: DCF Permanency Planning Policy 25-1, Kinship Care

Permanency Teaming Meetings Timeframes

The frequency of the meetings shall be based on the individual needs of the case and child, as determined in supervision. At a minimum, a meeting shall be held every 90 days.

Permanency teaming meetings strategically bring all members of the team together to:

- plan collaboratively
- coordinate supports and services and
- share decision making.

Permanency teaming meetings are not designed to be event-driven. However, there will be significant points within the life of the case at which team involvement and support is critical to case planning.

Documentation

The permanency teaming meetings shall be documented in the permanency teaming narrative category of the electronic case record.
