

PERMANENCY PLANNING

Permanency Plans

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Policy

Whenever a child is separated from their family, federal regulations require a judicial determination that the agency has made reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan within twelve months of the date the child entered care, and at least once every twelve months thereafter, while the child remains in out of home care.

A motion for review of permanency plan is filed no later than nine months from the initial placement and annually thereafter. The motion shall include information regarding reasonable efforts to reunify the child.

If the Department of Children and Family (DCF) recommends a plan of termination of parental rights (TPR) and adoption, the petition for TPR is filed concurrently with the motion.

In no case shall the petition for TPR be filed later than 60 days after the court's approval of the plan.

The study in support of permanency plan is submitted at the time the motion for review of permanency plan is filed. The study shall include all reunification efforts undertaken, the parents' compliance and progress with services offered, the specific permanency plan the court is being asked to approve and supporting rationale why this plan is in the child's best interests. If the permanency plan is not reunification, legal guardianship, or adoption, the social worker shall state compelling reasons for not choosing one of these preferred plans.

Cross reference: DCF Legal Policy 6-6, Superior Court for Juvenile Matters

Permanency Teaming Meeting

Prior to the submission of the child's permanency plan, a permanency teaming meeting will be held focused specifically on permanency planning and include the parents, caregivers, child/youth (if age and developmentally appropriate) and the family's supports, both formal and informal.

Prior to this meeting, consultation with legal, regional resource group (RRG) and the program supervisor is required.

The permanency teaming meeting is intended to help formulate the child's permanency plan, review progress, identify modifications to the case plan and specific steps, identify unmet needs for the family, and develop recommendations based on the discussion.

Cross reference: IV-E RED Policy

Cross reference: Permanency Planning Policy 25-3, Permanency Teaming
