



Series: 100: Case Management

Policy Name: Permanency Staffings, Changes in Legal Case Plan Goal

Policy Number: 116

Regulations: F.A.C 65C-28.006; FS 39.6012;

Origination Date: 11/01/2013

Revision Date: 07/01/2018

Policy: It is the policy of Communities Connected for Kids to seek and focus on permanence for children in care. This means carefully considering and monitoring the legal case plan goal of the child as changes in the child's circumstances and the parents' case plan compliance warrant, legally changing that goal when it appears to be in the best interest of the child to do so.

Procedure:

General Information

1. Legal goals and progress toward meeting that goal, i.e., behavioral changes and compliance with case plan goals, will be monitored throughout the life of a case.
2. When a decision is made not to return a child home, the case record contains an explanation and justification for the selection of an alternate method of achieving permanence and evidence of the efforts at family reunification as well as agency efforts on assisting with meeting the conditions for return.
3. Supervisory consultation regarding permanency every 90 days will be standard for Communities Connected for Kids.

Permanency Staffings

1. Regularly scheduled Permanency Staffings provide a venue for discussing the goal(s) and progress or lack thereof. Communities Connected for Kids' goal will be to hold the first permanency staffing at 90 days (far faster than the required 6 months) after shelter or case initiation, with ongoing staffings occurring at intervals of 3,5,9 and 11th for the first year, and every 5th and 11th month throughout the life of the case.
2. Staffings are held prior to judicial reviews so information shared at the staffing can become part of the judicial review report.
3. The Case Review Consultation and Staffing form is used during the Permanency Staffing
4. Permanency staffings will be scheduled by the Permanency Specialist, in collaboration with CLS, and the schedule will be shared with all parties involved with the child; including but not limited to parents, child, caregivers, attorneys, the Providers, Communities Connected for Kids, Guardian Ad Litem, etc. It is the responsibility of the Case Manager to serve as a back-up to notification, always contacting all parties to remind them of the staffing schedule.
5. At the permanency staffing, progress toward the legal goal is discussed to determine progress toward achieving a permanent plan and whether services described in the plan are being provided.



6. Critical dialog with the parents occurs during staffings which clarify for parents the need for parents to remain on task with case plan compliance or face the possibility that other permanency options will be considered.
7. Changes to the case plan are recommended in this venue which will more effectively move a child toward permanence within the required statutory time frames.

Goal Change

1. A change of goal may be considered by a case manager and supervisor in the natural course of working a case when it appears that such a change will move a child toward permanence in a more effective way. The change will be different from child to child; for example, from reunification to long term relative placement, from long term relative placement to adoption or independent living.
2. The topic of change of goal may also naturally evolve out of a Permanency Staffing, when placement and direction of a case are routinely discussed.
3. The case manager/supervisor will consult with Child Welfare Legal Services of their goal change recommendation prior to the staffing, so Legal Services can consider any legal implications and adequately prepare for the staffing. Legal Services will provide critical information to the case manager about whether the change in goal can be legally accomplished and when.
4. The permanency staffing is the venue in which to discuss goal changes with the parents and reinforce their need to remain compliant with the case plan tasks or face the possibility of an alternative permanency plan being recommended to the court.
5. Finding consensus for the goal change with Legal Services, the case manager will prepare appropriate legal documentation for submission to the court for approval.
6. The case manager will adequately prepare for the court appearance to argue the benefits of such goal change.

If a goal changes as a result of a court hearing, that goal change must be communicated by the case manager to Communities Connected for Kids, including the new information and date of change.

ASFA

1. As required by the Adoption and Safe Families Act, an individual child review for children in care 15 months or more will be held as scheduled by Legal Services, to support filing for Termination of Parental Rights.



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