



Series: 100: Case Management
Policy Name: Expediting Permanency for Abandoned Infants
Policy Number: 118
Regulations: FS 39.201
Origination Date: 11/01/2013

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Policy: Communities Connected for Kids will ensure that infants (age birth to one) who are abandoned have the opportunity for expedited permanency resolution.

Procedures:

1. In cases where a child has been abandoned a diligent search must begin immediately to locate a relative or parent who may not have been responsible for the abandonment and who may be a resource for adoption of other permanent placement of the infant.
2. In making placement decisions, the infant's developmental needs for attachment are essential. Once a placement has been made, only the most compelling circumstances would justify a subsequent move. For this reason, foster/adoptive placements in the absence of relatives should be considered as a first placement option.
3. If a move **MUST** be made, the transition must be planned in a manner that will reduce trauma to the child.
4. If, within 60 days, a parent or relative not responsible for the abandonment comes forward and is willing to provide a permanent home, a home study must be completed immediately to assess suitability for placement.
5. If maternal history is known and suggestive that the infant might be at high risk for auto-immune diseases, the infant must be tested. A court order is needed before proceeding.
6. A case plan for expedited permanency must be developed for the infant, a permanency hearing must be held and a permanency petition filed with the court within 30 days.
7. A staffing to include CLS, the child's caregiver, and the case manager must be convened to assist in developing the case plan.

The act of abandoning an infant meets the definition of egregious abuse and parents responsible for abandonment do not have to be offered a reunification case plan. The goal of the case plan will be adoption. The timeframe for finalized adoption must be the shortest time possible to allow for completion of the diligent search, home study, and the necessary legal procedures.

Approved: Carol DeLoach
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