INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES
CHILD WELFARE POLICY

Chapter 10: Guardianship and Adoption

Section 06: Case Consultation Regarding Delayed Permanency

Effective Date: April 1, 2022 | **Version:** 7

- *Procedure*
- *Definitions*
- *Forms and Tools*
- *Related Policies*
- *Legal References*
- *Practice Guidance*

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) recognizes the importance of permanency for children to develop healthy relationships with others; lessen the impact of loss, grief, and stress; and promote a sense of connection to others. Therefore, the specialized services of the Adoption Consultant are used when a child is in a family placement, but efforts to achieve permanency have been delayed.

Back to Top

PROCEDURE

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:
1. Identify children that have:
   a. Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) ordered by the court, and
   b. Placement with a family that has expressed intent to provide permanency for the child, but no action toward achieving that goal has been taken for a period of six (6) months.

2. Initiate permanency consultation services by contacting the regional Adoption Consultant;
3. Schedule a Child and Family Team (CFT) Meeting, which will include the prospective adoptive parent or prospective guardian, FCM, Adoption Consultant, child (if age and developmentally appropriate), and CFT members to:
   a. Discuss the intent of the prospective adoptive parents/guardians to provide a permanent home for the child,
   b. Identify the strengths and needs of the child and family and any barriers to achieving permanency for the child, and
   c. Develop a plan with clear action steps to secure permanency for the child within the next six (6) months.

4. Evaluate the child and family's progress toward legal permanency, and adjust the plan as necessary to attain timely permanency; and
5. Refer the child to Adoptive Family Recruitment services to begin the search for a new adoptive family if the current resource family is unable to commit to permanency for the child (see policy 10.07 Adoptive Family Recruitment Services).

The FCM Supervisor will:
1. Provide support and direction during regular case staffing with the FCM to identify delayed permanency efforts and plan next steps; and

2. Discuss and review the case and steps being made toward permanency on a regular basis.

The Adoption Consultant will:
1. Participate in the CFT meeting to share information with the family about post-adoption services and resources available after the adoption, if applicable, and answer questions about the long-term benefit and impact of permanency for the child; and
2. Provide support to the child and CFT if it is determined that a search for a new adoptive family may be necessary.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

Definitions

Case Staffing
Case staffing is a systematic and frequent review of all case information with safety, stability, permanency, and well-being as driving forces for case activities.

Guardian
For the purposes of juvenile law, a guardian means a person appointed by a court to have the care and custody of a child or the child's estate, or both.

Prospective Adoptive Parent
A prospective adoptive parent is a person who has filed a petition for adoption of a child under IC 31-19-2-99.2.

Resource Parent
For the purposes of DCS policy, a resource parent includes a foster parent, licensed or unlicensed relative or kinship caregiver, and a pre-adoptive parent.

Forms and Tools
- Adoption Consultant Map

Related Policies
- 5.07 Child and Family Team Meetings
- 10.07 Adoptive Family Recruitment Services

LEGAL REFERENCES

- IC 31-19-2-99.2 Filing of Petition for Adoption

PRACTICE GUIDANCE- DCS POLICY 10.06

Practice Guidance is designed to assist DCS staff with thoughtful and practical direction on how to effectively integrate tools and social work practice into daily case management in an effort to achieve positive family and child outcomes. Practice Guidance is separate from Policy.

N/A