

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 6: Court Involvement	Effective Date: May 1, 2021
	Section 8: Three Month Progress Report	Version: 7

POLICY OVERVIEW

In order to update the court on an open Child In Need of Services (CHINS) case, the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) prepares and submits a Progress Report to the court regarding progress made toward implementing the Dispositional Decree and achieving permanency. The Progress Report provides an update to the court on the following areas:

1. The child's voice;
2. Services for the child and/or parent, guardian, or custodian (including health and educational information);
3. Status of the parent's, guardian's, or custodian's progress in meeting parenting tasks/responsibilities consistently;
4. Visits between the child and the child's siblings and/or parent, guardian, or custodian (including visits with noncustodial and incarcerated parents);
5. Compliance and cooperation with participation in court ordered services;
6. Child's placement;
7. Outcomes and significant changes;
8. Pertinent information and recommendations obtained from consultations with professionals, Child and Family Team (CFT) members, and other significant individuals involved in the case who are not CFT members;
9. Recommendations for treatment, rehabilitation, permanency plan, and the child's placement;
10. Diligent efforts of DCS to identify and locate all adult relatives of the child throughout the life of the case; and
11. Reasonable efforts DCS has made to finalize the permanency plan for the child.

PROCEDURE

DCS will prepare and submit to the court a Progress Report for every child with an open CHINS case under the care and supervision of DCS, as follows:

1. Every three (3) months after the Dispositional Decree; and
2. At any time after the date of an original Dispositional Decree, the court may order DCS to file a Progress Report.

DCS will submit a Progress Report to the court at least 10 days prior to a Periodic Case Review Hearing.

DCS will make a copy of the Progress Report for and provide proof of service to the following:

1. The child/youth, based upon age and developmental level;

Note: All youth age 14 and older, have the right to participate in court and should receive a copy of the Progress Report.

2. Each parent (including noncustodial parent), guardian, or custodian of the child;

Note: The court may also provide a factual summary of the Progress Report to each parent, guardian, custodian, or resource parent of the child if the court has determined the report contains information that should not be released to an individual entitled to receive the report.

3. An attorney who has entered an appearance on behalf of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian;
4. Resource parent and/or long-term foster parent, if applicable;
5. Prospective adoptive parent named in a petition for adoption of the child if:
 - a. Each consent to adoption of the child has been signed and received by the DCS local office,
 - b. The court having jurisdiction in the adoption case has determined that consent to adoption is not required from a parent, guardian, or custodian, or
 - c. A petition has been filed to terminate the parent-child relationship between the child and any parent who has not signed a written consent to adoption.
6. Any other person known to DCS who is currently providing care for the child and is not required to be licensed under IC 12-17.2 or IC 31-27 to provide care for the child;
7. Any other suitable relative or person who has a significant or caretaking relationship with the child; and
8. Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and/or Guardian ad Litem (GAL).

Exception: If the court determines, on the record, that the Progress Report contains information that should not be released to any person who is otherwise entitled to receive a Progress Report, the court is not required to make the Progress Report available to that person. The court may provide the individual with a redacted copy of this report. However, the court will provide a copy of the Progress Report to the following:

- a. Each attorney or CASA/GAL representing the child; and
- b. Each attorney representing the child's parent, guardian, or custodian.

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Consult with the parent, guardian, custodian, resource parent, and any other professionals who have expertise related to the child and family's needs;
2. Prepare the Progress Report by following the prompts and completing all questions on the report;
3. Attach any additional reports to the Progress Report, including results of a drug or alcohol screen, indicating a parent, guardian, or custodian may have violated the Dispositional Decree;

Note: A summary of all significant changes that may have been addressed during a CFT Meeting is sufficient as opposed to attaching the entire CFT Notes document for the court. Youth age 14 and older should have a Youth Report to the Court completed and submitted to the court by the youth if the youth is unable to attend the court hearing.

4. Obtain supervisory approval and signature;
5. Sign the Progress Report;
6. Provide a properly redacted copy of the Progress Report to all appropriate parties and persons after the DCS Staff Attorney has approved the Progress Report; and

7. Update the child's and/or family's information in the case management system as needed when changes occur regarding income and resources, parent's place of residence, and household membership.

The FCM Supervisor will:

1. Review and make any recommendations regarding the Progress Report; and
2. Approve and sign the Progress Report.

The DCS Staff Attorney will:

1. Review the Progress Report after the FCM Supervisor has reviewed it and make recommendations regarding any changes needed prior to the filing of the report; and
2. File the completed Progress Report with the court and ensure the report is served upon the appropriate parties.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-9-2-76.5: "Long term foster parent"](#)
- [IC 31-34-20-7: Provision of information by department of child services](#)
- [IC 31-34-21-1: Progress reports: procedure for modification of decree](#)
- [IC 31-34-21-4: Notice of case review; testimony in periodic case review](#)
- [IC 31-34-22-1: Progress report; modification report](#)
- [IC 31-34-22-2: Providing copies of reports and factual summaries of reports](#)

RELEVANT INFORMATION

Definitions

Long-term Foster Parent

A long-term foster parent is a resource parent who has provided care and supervision for a child for at least:

1. The 12 most recent months;
2. Fifteen (15) months of the most recent 22 months; or
3. Six (6) months, if the child is less than 12 months of age.

Redaction

Redaction is the process of removing or concealing confidential or sensitive information from a document prior to release of the document. Redacted documents should be thoroughly reviewed by a DCS attorney prior to disclosure.

Forms and Tools

- [Progress Report](#) - Available in the case management system
- [Modification Report](#) - Available in the case management system
- [Case Plan \(SF 2956\)](#) - Available in the case management system
- [Youth Report to the Court](#) - Available in the case management system

Related Policies

N/A