



## Tip Sheet

### Concurrent Case Planning

“Concurrent Case Planning” means working toward a primary permanency goal while at the same time establishing an alternative permanency goal for the child to be utilized in the event reunification does not occur within a time period that is reasonable with the child’s sense of time. To be effective, concurrent planning requires not only the identification of an alternative plan, but also the implementation of active efforts toward both plans simultaneously with the full knowledge of all participants. Concurrent planning can assist in earlier permanency for children in out of home care.

#### Florida Statute and Administrative Code on Concurrent Planning:

- 65C-30 Requires evaluation to determine if concurrent case planning is appropriate in every case involving a child in an out-of-home placement.
- 65C-28 Requires the appropriateness of concurrent goals shall be evaluated at each permanency staffing.
- Ch 39.01 Defines “Concurrent planning” as establishing a permanency goal in a case plan that uses reasonable efforts to reunify the child with the parent, while at the same time establishing another goal that must be one of the following options: Adoption; Permanent Guardianship; Placement with a Fit and Willing Relative; or, placement in Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement.
- CH 39.6013 Provides that the case plan may be amended by the court or upon motion of any party at any hearing to change the goal of the plan, employ the use of concurrent planning, or add or remove tasks the parent must complete in order to substantially comply with the plan if there is a preponderance of evidence demonstrating the need for the amendment.
- CH 39.701 Requires a Judicial Review hearing be held within 6 months after the date that the child was placed in shelter care. At the hearing the court shall make findings regarding the likelihood of the child’s reunification within 12 months after the removal of the child from the home. If the court makes a written finding that it is not likely that the child will be reunified within 12 months after the child was removed from the home, the department must file a motion to amend the case plan and declare that it will use concurrent planning for the case plan. If concurrent planning is already being used, the case plan must document the efforts the department is taking to complete the concurrent goal.

#### “Are you willing to adopt?” - What does this question really mean?

- When the question is asked at the onset of a case or placement, most often the Family Care Counselor is assessing the potential for this placement to be a permanent one, IF reunification is not achieved.
- They are asking if you are open to adoption or willing to make a permanent commitment to the child BEFORE the child is available for adoption.
- They are NOT indicating you will be able to adopt the child being placed in your care.
- There are many factors that will influence the permanency outcome for the child such as whether reunification is achievable; whether other placement resources are identified, such as relatives or non-relatives; and, whether the child is free for adoption or not.

#### Resources:

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/concurrent.pdf>

[https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/concurrent\\_evidence.pdf](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/concurrent_evidence.pdf)

Concurrent planning requires active steps be taken toward achieving two different goals at the same time. A foster parents’ role often includes teaching and modeling skills for birth parents and other family members while at the same time being asked to commit as a permanency option for children if reunification is not able to be achieved.