



Series	Permanency and Legal Issues
Policy Name	Concurrent Planning
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References	CFOP 170-9 Ch 5 and 7; F.S 39.6011(2)(c); FS 39.6221; FS 39.6231; FS 39.6241

Related Documents

Policy

It is the policy of Partnership for Strong Families (PSF) to employ multiple, simultaneous permanency goals (concurrent planning) in order to assure more rapid permanency for children and youth. Fundamental to PSF's concurrent planning practice is the philosophy that the concurrent goal is equally valid and must be addressed as such so that both the primary and the concurrent goals have actions taken to meet their end. It is also the policy of PSF to maintain and utilize procedures to implement this policy. PSF embraces a collaborative, strategic approach to risk management, which includes identifying and addressing threats and opportunities the organization faces at every level. This policy is written in accordance with the PSF Risk Management Plan.

Procedure

A. Concurrent Case Planning: General Information

1. PSF supports and adopts concurrent case planning, a process of working towards family reunification while, at the same time, developing an alternative permanency plan for the child that could include adoption, permanent guardianship, permanent placement with a fit and willing relative, or placement in another planned permanent living arrangement.

B. Concurrent Case Planning

1. Concurrent planning is a casework intervention process utilized in out-of-home placements, whereby case planning for reunification and alternative permanency are implemented simultaneously. The process requires an initial assessment of the family's potential for successful reunification, speedy identification of potential permanent placement resources, and intensive, time-limited service provision.

Every case involving a child in an out-of-home placement shall be evaluated to determine if concurrent case planning is appropriate as a part of case plan development. If it is determined

a concurrent goal is appropriate, the goals should be considered in order of statutory preference. Factors for establishing a concurrent goal include the history of child welfare involvement, severity of any mental health diagnosis, severity of substance abuse/misuse, pattern of violence, significant criminal and/or incarceration history, severity of abuse or neglect of the child, level of parental engagement with the child and quality of parent's support system.

2. When establishing a concurrent goal, all permanency options, including expectations, available supports, and required timelines must be shared.
3. When a goal other than reunification is considered, the parents must be provided information about alternative placement options.
4. The appropriateness of concurrent goals shall be evaluated at each permanency staffing.
5. When recommending a concurrent goal at a permanency hearing, the new case plan reflecting the concurrent tasks should be filed before the permanency hearing. If the case plan is not filed before the hearing and the concurrent goal is approved by the court, the new case plan must be filed no later than 10 calendar days after the hearing.
6. Birth Verification of Children.
 - a) A copy of a birth certificate or birth verification shall be obtained for each child under court ordered in-home supervision within 15 days after the case transfer conference.
 - b) A copy of a birth certificate or birth verification shall be obtained for each child entering out-of-home care within 15 days of initial placement.
 - c) For children born out-of-state or out-of-country, verification of the child's birth shall be requested within 15 days from initial placement and documented in the case file. Refer to subsection 65C-30.007(12), F.A.C., regarding the necessary actions when it is determined that a child was born in another country and has not established legal alien status.
7. Within 30 days of the TPR Petition being filed, the child welfare professional will ensure that the child's birth records are requested and obtained within 90 days.
8. Within 30 days of the TPR Petition being filed, the child welfare professional will ensure that all health history records, school records, mental health records, hospitalization records, and residential setting records are requested and obtained within 90 days.



9. Within 30 days of the TPR Petition being filed, the child welfare professional will ensure that the following documents are in the Child Welfare Information System:
 - a) Shelter Petition and Shelter Order
 - b) Dependency Petition and Dependency Order
 - c) Modification Petition and Modification Order if applicable
 - d) Original Predisposition Report (Ongoing Family Functioning Assessment)
 - e) Case Plans that address the child's needs
 - f) Protective investigations identifying the child as a victim
 - g) Guardian ad Litem report filed with the court concerning the child
 - h) Psychological Evaluations and Comprehensive Assessments
 - i) Names of providers who provided services to child while in foster care

C. Documentation

1. Concurrent goals will be decided in the Case Planning staffings and indicated in the case plan. Tasks must be included to achieve each of the goals established.
2. Interactions with the children and families (birth, foster, and pre-adoptive) as well as interactions with collateral resources will reflect efforts towards achieving each of the concurrent goals. These interactions will be reflected in case recordings and in all case reviews.