



Series: Foster Care
Policy Name: Concurrent Case Planning & Permanency Achievement
Policy Number: FC 306
Origination Date: 10/29/10
Revision Date: 5/23/24
Regulation: 65C-30, FS 39.6011, FS 39.602, FS 39.6021, FS 39.621, CFOP 170-9
Applicable To: CPC Staff & Contracted Providers

PURPOSE: It is the policy of Community Partnership for Children, hereinafter referred to as CPC, to assure that every child and family has the opportunity to achieve timely legal permanency utilizing family engagement practices and standards established in Florida Statutes, Operating Procedures, and Florida Administrative Code. Concurrent planning establishes goals, outcomes, responsibilities and ensures statutory requirements are addressed to achieve permanency and well-being outcomes for children in out of home care.

"Concurrent planning" means 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:

- (a) Adoption when a petition for termination of parental rights has been filed or will be filed;
- (b) Permanent guardianship of a dependent child under s. 39.6221;
- (c) Permanent placement with a fit and willing relative under s. 39.6231; or
- (d) Placement in another planned permanent living arrangement under s. 39.6241."

PROCEDURE:

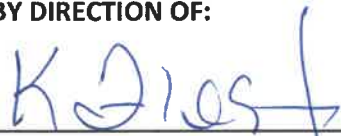
1. Concurrent Case Planning & Permanency Achievement-

- A. 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 on the child, level of parental engagement with the child and quality of parent's support system.
- B. Every case involving a child in an out-of-home placement shall be evaluated to determine if concurrent case planning is appropriate. Determining the appropriateness of concurrent goals shall occur in the early stages of the case and concurrent case planning shall be performed if determined appropriate.
- C. When establishing a concurrent goal, all permanency options, including expectations, available supports and required timelines must be shared.
- D. Initial discussions to address concurrent goal planning will occur during Case Transfer Conference (CTC) between the parents, family, Investigations, Case Management, and other mandatory participants. Case Transfer Conferences (CTC) will be held no later than 72-hours after the child's removal to align with statutory requirements involving emergency placement moves.

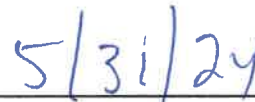
- E. Permanency staffing will be held to address concurrent planning prior to Arraignment Hearing (scheduled 30 days from removal) when the family has been involved in a prior removal episode involving the same maltreatment or has an extensive history with service provisions and limited or inconsistent behavioral changes.
- F. Cases involving concurrent permanency goal as initial case plan goal:
 - a. Permanency Staffing Specialist will review FFA-Investigation, shelter petition, shelter order, case history, conditions for return, and other pertinent case information to prepare for permanency staffing discussion and proposed recommendation(s).
 - b. If concurrent goal is recommended as initial permanency goal, parties will determine the appropriateness of recommending six (6) month target date.
 - c. Case Manager and Case Manager Supervisor will establish outcomes and services prior to initial case plan conference and will provide proposed tasks to Children's Legal Services and Guardian ad Litem Program.
- G. The child welfare professional shall assess for Conditions for Return at every staffing, court hearing, and on an ongoing basis throughout the life of the case.
 - a. Progress Update shall be used to assess the parent(s) protective capacities, home environment and backgrounds for Reunification.
 - b. Within 10 business days of starting a Progress Update to reunify, the child welfare professional must update local criminal history checks, including required fingerprint submission for any household members 18 years of age or older.
- H. Permanency staffings will be held at four (4) months or prior to scheduled initial Judicial Review Hearings, whichever occurs sooner. Permanency Staffing Specialists will address parental engagement, reasonable efforts, family progress, child's needs, and conditions for return during discussions. The appropriateness of concurrent goals shall be evaluated at each permanency staffing. Concurrent goal recommendations, when appropriate, will be determined prior to scheduled initial Judicial Review Hearings to align with statutory requirements.
- I. Participants will be provided an explanation of the purpose of concurrent planning and how it impacts the case.
- J. When a goal other than reunification is considered, the parents must be provided information about alternative permanency options.
- K. The child welfare professional shall have on going communication with the caregivers regarding services and benefits available to children and families with the goal of permanent guardianship.
- L. Case Manager must ensure that the case plan includes services and tasks addressing both goals when there are concurrent goals.

- M. Prior to approving case plan modifications, supervisors should determine whether there is a genuine concurrent plan that is being actively pursued and sustained in the event behavior change is not likely in a timely way.
- N. Case Manager must assess concurrent planning appropriateness when a parent is incarcerated or becomes incarcerated during Dependency case. Case Manager will assist the incarcerated parent in preparation and completion of case plan. Case Manager will assess service availability at parents' facility and will determine if parent has the ability to participate in available services by maintaining contact with Classification Officer. CPC will complete ongoing assessments to assess incarcerated parent progress and engagement. Permanency staffing will be completed at case onset if it is known that a parent is incarcerated with a sentence that extends beyond 12 months to assess appropriateness of concurrent case plan goal or initial permanency goal recommendations.
- O. Children, when age appropriate, must be allowed to actively participate in their own case plan as well as any revision or addition to the plan. CPC will utilize family engagement practices and will ensure that children, caregivers, parents, and legal guardians are involved in concurrent case planning efforts.
- P. For children thirteen and over who are in an out-of-home placement, the case plan will include a description of the independent living services identified regardless of the goal of the plan.
- Q. Translation services shall be provided for families or children who are not able to fully understand the discussion during development and explanation of the case plan either because of a lack of proficiency in English or due to deafness.
- R. 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.
- S. The CBC shall ensure permanency staffings are held prior to preparing for a permanency hearing.

BY DIRECTION OF:



**Karin Flositz, Chief Executive Officer
Community Partnership for Children**



Approval Date