

Concurrent Services Planning

(Revised 03/29/18)

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Forms

The following forms are referenced in this file:

- Field Tool/Face Sheet
- 04-7 Court Officer's Summary
- 04-52 Parent/Relative Search Request *(CWS/CMS Template)*
- 04-133 PPAU Pre-Assessment Referral *(CWS/CMS Template)*

General information

Concurrent Planning is the process of working towards reunification and, at the same time, establishing an alternative plan for permanency, while allowing children to be placed with an approved family who has agreed to facilitate reunification and who is prepared to provide the child a permanent home if reunification fails. WIC 366.21 makes it clear that planning for permanency does not conflict with providing reasonable services for reunification.

The options for a Permanent Plan in order of permanence and preference:

- Adoption
 - Tribal Customary Adoption (for Indian children)
 - Guardianship
 - Placement with a fit and willing relative
 - Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) (only permitted for youth 16 and older).
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Concurrent Planning requirements

Concurrent Planning services will be provided to all FR children. The following table describes SW requirements in **all** cases.

When	The SW will:
<p>Prior to the Dispositional Hearing...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct early and thorough Parent Searches for absent parent(s). • Discuss the reunification prognosis assessment with the parent(s). • Advise the parent(s) that services will be selected based on the case plan goal of reunification. In addition, a concurrent plan will be developed to identify which permanent plan is likely to be chosen if efforts to reunify fail. • Inform the parent(s) that they have the option to consider relinquishing their parental rights so the child can be adopted and they can participate in the adoption planning. • If the parent expresses interest in relinquishment, consult with an Adoptions PSS.
<p>Prior to the Dispositional Hearing, and continuing for the life of the case...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with PPAU before any change of placement for a child under 6 years old. • Consider a caregiver’s ability to facilitate reunification, protect the child, and provide legal permanence if efforts to reunify fail. • Consider whether the parent has had parental rights terminated over a sibling, and if so, whether or not the caregiver(s) would consider becoming a placement option. • Make an Approve to Adopt (ATA) placement referral (see Referrals for a PP Assessment chapter) if there is not an appropriate relative, and the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ child has been in the placement less than 4 months, ○ parent meets exception criteria for FR services (see Types of Hearings - Disposition), or ○ parent does not wish to receive FR services, or ○ prognosis for reunification is poor.
<p>After the Dispositional Hearing and continuing for the life of the case...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to search for absent parent (s). • Monitor the parent’s progress toward reunification. • Assess the child’s prognosis for reunification at each visit and prior to each Review Hearing. • Continue to consider and/or evaluate relative placements. • Reassess and update the concurrent plan every time there is a significant change in a parent’s situation; i.e., parent no longer available (leaves town, loses contact with child, starts a long-prison term, etc.).

Referral paperwork

If the child's prognosis for reunification is poor and the above criteria apply, complete and forward a referral packet, including the following information, to PPAU:

- 04-133 (PPAU Pre-Assessment Referral)
- Field Tool/Face Sheet
- Establishment of ICWA
- Death, Divorce, Marriage certificates (copy) for parent, if applicable
- Child's birth certificate
- Most recent Court Officer's Summary (04-7)
- All previous parent searches
- Psychological evaluations for child and parents, if available
- Developmental assessments
- Birth/Medical Records/Discharge Summary.

Documentation

SW staff will include Concurrent Planning activities in the following documents:

Case Plan

The Initial Case Plan and Case Plan Update (see Case Plans chapter) will have two tracks as follows:

- The **family reunification track**, which describes the services to be provided to assist reunification, **and**
- The **permanency planning track**, which identifies the child's permanency alternative and the services to be provided concurrently to achieve legal permanency if efforts to reunify fail.

Jurisdictional/Dispositional Hearing Report

The Jurisdictional/Dispositional Hearing Report must include both the reunification plan and the permanency alternative plan should reunification fail, as well as the following information:

- Parent's prognosis for reunification.
- Documentation of discussion with the parent about the requirement to plan for permanency, **and** the parent's option to voluntarily relinquish the child for adoption and participate in adoption planning.
- If there was no discussion, a statement why there was no discussion (e.g., parent unavailable/unwilling).
- Steps made toward legal permanence for the child; (e.g., a child who is placed with a relative who is willing to provide legal permanence, **or** a child who is referred to PPAU (Transferring a Case to PPAU) for placement in a concurrent planning home).

Review Reports

The Status Review Hearing Report must include an update on the services provided to achieve alternate permanence for the child if efforts to reunify fail.

Once a permanent plan is ordered, concurrent planning is no longer required. However, if the PP is APPLA (for a youth 16 or older), or continued foster care (for children under 16), the SW must continue to document any barriers to achieving a more permanent plan (see How to Determine an Appropriate Permanent Plan).

Alignment with SET

This policy supports the following SET Values:

- [Value 1](#): **Relationships with Children, Youth, and Families Are the Foundation** through partnering with families and providing transparent communication.
 - [Value 2](#): **Collaborative Partnerships with Kinship and Resources Families** through open communication and shared responsibility for the child's permanency.
 - [Value 3](#): **Helping Children and Youth Achieve Their Full Potential and Develop Lifelong Relationships** through prioritizing the child's well-being and permanency.
 - [Value 5](#): **A Strong Working Relationship with the Legal System** through collaboration with legal partners, focusing on the child's right to permanency, while balancing the parents' rights.
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