



Series: 100: Case Management
Policy Name: **Permanency Staffings, Changes in Legal Case Plan Goal**
Policy Number: 116
Regulations: F.A.C 65C-28.006; FS 39.6012; SB 664
Origination Date: 11/01/2013 **Revision Date:** 04/24/2024

Policy: It is the policy of Communities Connected for Kids to seek and focus on permanency for children in care. This means carefully considering and monitoring the legal case plan goal of the child as changes in the child’s circumstances and the parents’ case plan compliance warrant, legally changing that goal when it appears to be in the best interest of the child to do so.

Procedure:

General Information

1. Legal goals and progress toward meeting that goal, i.e., behavioral changes and compliance with case plan goals, will be monitored throughout the life of a case.
2. When a decision is made that a child cannot be safely reunified with a parent, the case record contains an explanation and justification for the selection of an alternate method of achieving permanency and evidence of the efforts at family reunification as well as agency efforts on assisting with meeting the conditions for return.
3. Supervisory consultation regarding permanency every 90 days during progress updates will be standard for Communities Connected for Kids.

Permanency Staffings

1. Regularly scheduled Permanency Staffings provide a venue for discussing the goal(s) and progress or lack thereof. Communities Connected for Kids’ goal will be to hold the first permanency staffing at 90 days (far faster than the required 6 months) after shelter or case initiation, with ongoing staffings occurring at intervals of 3,5,9 and 11th for the first year, and every 5th and 11th month throughout the life of the case.
2. Staffings are held prior to judicial reviews so information shared at the staffing can become part of the judicial review report.
3. Permanency staffings will be scheduled by the Permanency Specialist, in collaboration with CLS, and the schedule will be shared with all parties involved with the child; including but not limited to parents, child, caregivers, attorneys, the Providers, Communities Connected for Kids, Guardian Ad Litem, etc. It is the responsibility of the Case Manager to serve as a back-up to notification, always contacting all parties to remind them of the staffing schedule.
4. At the permanency staffing, progress toward the legal goal is discussed to determine progress toward achieving a permanent plan and whether services described in the plan are being provided.



5. Critical dialog with the parents occurs during staffings which clarify for parents the need for parents to remain on task with case plan compliance or face the possibility that other permanency options being considered.
6. The child welfare professional shall assess for Conditions for Return at every staffing and hearing and on an on-going basis throughout the life of the case.
7. Documented discussions also need to include the status of the current placements for children; visitation with children between parents and siblings, placement exploration of getting siblings placed together if separated; service needs for parents, children and caregivers as well as on-going family finding efforts for all children in licensed care.
8. Changes to the case plan may be recommended in this venue which will more effectively move a child toward permanence within the required statutory time frames.
9. The Permanency Staffing form is used during the Permanency Staffing and will be attached to a meeting note for Permanency Staffing in FSFN by the chairing Permanency Specialist

Goal Change

1. A change of goal may be considered by a case manager and supervisor in the natural course of working a case when it appears that such a change will move a child toward permanence in a more effective way. The change will be different from child to child, for example, from reunification to long term relative placement, from long term relative placement to adoption or independent living.
2. The topic of change of goal may also naturally evolve out of Permanency Staffing, when placement and direction of a case are routinely discussed.
3. The case manager/supervisor will consult with Child Welfare Legal Services of their goal change recommendation prior to the staffing, so Legal Services can consider any legal implications and adequately prepare for the staffing. Legal Services will provide critical information to the case manager about whether the change in goal can be legally accomplished and when.
4. The permanency staffing is the venue in which to discuss goal changes with the parents and discuss the possibility of an alternative permanency goal being recommended to the court.
5. Finding consensus for the goal change with Legal Services, the case manager will prepare appropriate legal documentation for submission to the court for approval
6. The case manager will adequately prepare for the court appearance to explain the reasons and benefits of such a goal change.
7. 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.



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