

5-Month Enhanced Review (Regional Review) Case Practice Guide, page 30-31

Formal internal review conducted by the Administrative Placement Reviewer (formerly Regional Reviewer) who serves as an independent consultant to all parties.

Participants

Parents, Administrative Placement Reviewer, Area Concurrent Planning Specialist, Supervisor, Caseworker, child (depending on age and appropriateness), caregiver, and any other interested parties. The Casework Supervisor, Adoption Supervisor, and Resource Family worker may attend as necessary. The Resource Support worker and/or Supervisor is required to attend if the child is not placed with kin/fictive kin or if the child is placed with kin or fictive kin and the home is still in presumptive status.

NOTE: This review may occur in conjunction with a Family Team Meeting with the permission and agreement of the family and the reviewer.

Purpose

Focus on progress made in achieving the goals reflected in the case plan. Review the completion of key permanency tasks (such as searches for missing parents); evaluate parental participation and progress towards reunification; assess the effectiveness of services already provided and identify adjustments needed to meet the needs of the child, family or resource family; review the appropriateness and stability of the child's placement and verify that the home is licensed. This review is also meant to facilitate the identification of cases for early reunification, early Adoption or Kinship Legal Guardianship.

Use this review as a concurrent planning checkpoint to:

- Gauge progress toward family reunification and re-assess whether the child is in a potentially permanent home
- Ensure that case record includes birth certificates, birth records, Social Security card and health and education information on the child
- Determine if the current home is the best placement for this child - does it meet both the child's short and long term needs
- Discuss the status of the resource home. Is the home licensed and approved? Was a waiver needed and completed? If the placement is questionable, not appropriate or will not meet licensing requirements or the caregivers are not willing to provide a permanent plan, the process to identify another potentially permanent placement must begin
- Review the Activities within 4-8 months of placement to ensure required activities have been completed
- Review the Activities within 10 months of placement to identify the permanency activities that are required in the next 5 months

Practice Considerations Within 4 to 8 Months of Placement, Case Practice Guide, page 32-33

- Review court orders and discuss progress of parents in terms of litigation requirements including court ordered evaluations and services

- Obtain initial assessments and reports from service providers, schools, mental health and medical resources, and update on an ongoing basis. Read and evaluate the information. As appropriate, discuss with providers, office consultants in the appropriate fields (medical, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence) and supervisor or casework supervisor
- Update the assessment of the family and plan with them to adjust services accordingly.
- File copies of all information received in the case record
- Complete the Reunification Assessment Caregiver Strength and Needs Assessment (for the biological parents) by 6 months from placement
- Assess quality of care child is receiving in their current home and their willingness to commit to a potential permanent plan to be sure that placement will meet both short and long-term needs of the child
- Begin to explore other placement alternatives that can meet the child's short and long term needs if child needs to move; a child specific recruitment plan may be required
- Consider DAG conference to obtain PRE-Adopt placement approval if case circumstances warrant
- Observe visits and note the quality and nature of the interaction. For visitation completed by other parties, note the frequency of parent, child, and sibling contact, and how the visit is described
- Document all information in NJ SPIRIT weekly
- Gather fuller family background and medical information about the birth family. Ensure child's medical history (CP&P 14-177) is complete
- Re-assess the child's mental health needs using the mental health screening tool (see page 109). If there is a need for any formal medical, educational or psychological evaluations that remain outstanding, make appropriate referrals. Reinforce the importance of permanency for children in all discussions with parents and at periodic court hearings
- Discuss permanency with relatives and resource parents. Assess resource family commitment to permanency, explain adoption process and review supports available within the subsidy program, document accordingly. Ensure rule out letters are sent and documented
- Ensure an updated photo of the child is in the record
- Expand each child's life book with additional photos, some discussion of why they are in placement, their experiences while in care, and background on their birth family
- Prepare family for regional review and ensure parents and all interested parties are invited.
- Update case plan with family in conjunction with review
- Supervisor and caseworker attendance is mandatory. What progress has been made regarding non-negotiables? What issues are best addressed at the next FTM? Provide honest feedback to parents regarding the outcomes to date for all services and activities. (Full Disclosure).