## GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Child and Family Services Agency





Administrative Issuance: CFSA-09-4

TO: All CFSA Staff

FROM: Roque Gerald

**Acting Director** 

DATE: March 27, 2009

RE: Case Planning for Guardianship

The Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) is required by law\* to implement and benefit from a series of new case plan mandates for children in foster care with a permanency goal of guardianship. Implementation of these requirements will provide assurances and accountability regarding the appropriateness of this permanency goal. Further, CFSA will benefit from claim reimbursement under Title IV-E for kinship guardianship assistance provided on behalf of eligible children who leave foster care for permanent placement with a relative who is also their legal guardian.

This issuance is effective immediately.

For a child with respect to whom the permanency plan is placement with a relative and receipt of kinship guardian assistance payments, the social worker shall include the following descriptions in the case plan:

- a. The steps that CFSA has taken to determine that it is not appropriate for the child to be returned home or adopted.
- b. The reasons for any separation of siblings during placement.
- c. The reasons why a permanent placement with a fit and willing relative through a kinship guardianship assistance arrangement is in the child's best interests.
- d. The ways in which the child meets the eligibility requirements for a kinship quardianship assistance payment.
- e. The efforts the agency has made to discuss adoption by the child's relative foster parent as a more permanent alternative to legal guardianship and, in the case of a relative foster parent who has chosen not to pursue adoption, documentation of the reasons.
- f. The efforts made by CFSA to discuss with the child's parent or parents the kinship guardianship assistance arrangement, or the reasons why the efforts were not made.

<sup>\*</sup> Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (42 UCSA § 1305; Pub. L. 110-351, 2008 HR 6893)