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 guardianship 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.

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