

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY (CFSA) 2011 Quick Reference Guide

Case Planning When the Permanency Goal is Permanent Guardianship

Permanent guardianship may be an appropriate permanency goal for a child only after reunification and adoption have been ruled out. In such cases, permanent guardianship—a judicially created relationship in which certain parental rights and responsibilities are placed in the permanent guardian, while the parent retains other parental rights and responsibilities—shall be considered as a permanency goal.

The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2010 requires CFSA to ensure that certain practice and process steps have occurred when developing or updating a case plan for a youth in foster care whose permanency goal is permanent guardianship.

The youth's FACES Permanency Plan, Guardianship Referral, and Contact Notes *must* reflect the following information with respect to the determination that the goal of permanent guardianship is in the youth's best interest:

1. The reasons the child cannot return to his or her biological parents and how the family team came to this decision.
2. The reasons that adoption, either with the current caregiver or someone else, is not in the child's best interests. Since adoption is a more permanent option than guardianship, explain how the family team came to this decision, and include the following information:
 - Describe all efforts to discuss adoption with the prospective guardian, and if appropriate, the child.
 - If applicable, explain why the guardian is not interested or willing to adopt the child.
 - If applicable, why the child is not willing to be adopted, and how this has been discussed with the child.
3. The reasons why it would be in the child's best interest to be placed with the prospective guardian.
4. Information about the discussions with the prospective guardian regarding permanent guardianship assistance.
5. If the child is not placed with his or her siblings, the reasons that some or all of the siblings are not placed together in the prospective guardian's home.
6. Description of the efforts to talk with the biological parents about their child's placement in the prospective guardian's home, or if applicable, the reasons for being unable to talk with the biological parents about the placement.
7. Description of the efforts to discuss the permanent guardianship agreement with the child's parents. If this has not been discussed with the parents, explain why.

See the Quick Reference Guide on [Removal Notification to Relatives](#) for additional guidance.

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FACES Documentation Tip: the Permanency Plan module contains four tabs that must be completed and maintained at regular case planning intervals.

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Permanency Plan Selection

* Denotes Required Fields ** Denotes Half-Mandatory Fields #Denotes AFCARS Fields

Permanency Goal Child Siblings Barriers

Changes in Permanency Goal may impact Household membership. Be sure to make any necessary changes on the Household Manager screen.

General Information

Creation Date* 02/16/2007 End Date Staff Name LUKE OKOLI Projected Goal Achv. Date
Unit / Program Area Family Rsrc Div

Goal

Recommended Permanency Goal Permanency Goal* Guardianship Concurrent Permanency Goal Permanency Goal Origin Court Ordered Current Placement Provider

Permanency and Concurrent Goal Reason

Permanency Goal is not in line with current placement
Reason Permanency Goal is not in line with current placement

Identify steps needed to achieve concurrent goal

Describe why adoption is not permanency goal
Guardianship

FACES Documentation Tip: the Guardianship Referral screens were recently modified to capture the Fostering Connections case planning requirements. Each tab contains data fields that require entry and maintenance as appropriate.

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List of Clients | List of Guardianship Referrals | Referral | Information

Guardianship Subsidy

* Denotes Required Fields ** Denotes Half-Mandatory Fields #Denotes AFCARS Fields

Guardianship Referral

Referral Start Date 02/12/2007 Referral End Date 02/12/2007 Client Name Staff Name JAMES MURPHY
Placement Start Date Case ID Program Area OPPPS - Planning Research Program
Provider Name Provider Id
Service Type Room & Board/Kinship Foster Care/Continuing/Level I

Referral Information

Reason for referral for permanent guardianship subsidy (all questions must be answered)
Is the permanency goal of legal guardianship in the child's best interest?

Explain why

Has Reunification or Adoption been ruled out for this child?
Yes

Explain why
The court further concludes that adoption, termination of parental rights, or return to the parent is not appropriate for the children and that the proposed permanent guardian is suitable and able to provide a safe and permanent home for the child.

The child demonstrates a strong attachment to the prospective relative guardian
 The relative guardian has a strong commitment to caring permanently for the child