

Case reflection tool-strengthening permanency for non-indigenous children

Purpose

This tool may be used to reflect on practice when considering permanency for a non-indigenous child. This could occur in supervision, case consultations, and practice panels. It is suitable for use with children who are in the custody or guardianship of the child executive. It considers the three dimensions of permanency relational, physical and legal along with case planning. The four domains of inquiry are used to reflect on the progress of permanency planning.

When practice is at its best we would see:	
Relational Permanency	- case planning to support a child to have a strong, well-developed sense of connection, belonging and wellbeing - the needs of the child clearly and accurately identified - the voice of the child is expressed and considered (to the extent possible for their age and development) - opportunities for parents, family and members of the safety and support network to participate in planning and decision making - safe family connection time (family contact) is occurring for the child with their parents to strengthen connections - meaningful and regular opportunities for the child to connect to siblings, parents, kin, carers and significant others - an up-to-date, accessible genogram and/or kinship map in the child's current ongoing intervention event and case plan - identification of opportunities for family members to be involved, outside of providing a care arrangement (for example: facilitate family connection time (family contact), take the child to family occasions, cultural story telling) - recognise, acknowledge and respond to the child's spirituality and cultural connections
Physical Permanency	- case planning with a strong, well-developed focus on safety and stability - care arrangements with kin wherever possible - ongoing activity to progress potential kinship carer assessments - a stable care arrangement that meets the child's developmental, health, emotional, cultural and physical needs - carers supported to meet the child's needs, including complex needs - the child's views and wishes about where they would like to live are taken into consideration - the child is informed and consulted about care arrangement plans - parental participation in decision making about care arrangements and care needs - consideration has been made to reunite siblings who are in different care arrangements - careful and considered transitions between care arrangements - ongoing connection between the child and their local community including school, employment, child care, community activities and health care - the carer as a partner in the care of the child and a member of the safety and support network - purposeful discussions with carers about their capacity to provide longer term care or support transitional arrangements - regular review of placement agreements - standards of care concerns addressed in a timely way

Legal Permanency	• case planning with a strong focus on providing a child with lifelong stability and security • engagement and ongoing participation by the family and others in collaborative planning to inform decision making • information gathering achieved through active engagement with child, family, carers, relevant agencies and support services • regular review and robust analysis of previous and current safety and risk factors • robust, transparent and collaborative decision making about reunification • parents know their rights and have access to legal advice • identification and assessment of kin as potential guardians • identification and assessment of other suitable persons as guardians where kin are not available • thoughtful application of statutory authority by practitioners to ensure a secure, stable and responsive legal arrangement which enables the safe care of the child • all legal options are explored and considered to ensure the most appropriate arrangement is pursued • the child protection order is the least intrusive to meet the child's care and protection needs
Case Planning	• responsive, transparent and timely case planning, using family-led decision making principles and processes which promote the meaningful participation and active involvement of the child, family, carers, relevant agencies, and support services • concurrent planning for reunification and a stable long-term alternative is clearly visible in the case plan (for children on short-term orders or interim orders prior to a long-term order being made) • for children in the long-term guardianship of the chief executive, the case plan reflects goals and actions to strengthen relational, physical, and legal permanency • active and purposeful information gathering to ensure that knowledge of the child and family is current and accurate • an up-to-date genogram and/or kinship map in the case plan • involvement of services that respond to a child and family's needs • the family reunification assessment is completed prior to a long-term order being made • efforts made to maximise the opportunity for safe and timely reunification

	What is working well?	What are we worried about?	Where are we now? (Scale)	Next Steps
Relational permanency				
Physical permanency				
Legal permanency				
Case planning				

Version history

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