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|  | <b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES</b><br><b>CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b>  |                   |
|   | <b>Chapter 10:</b> Guardianship and Adoption<br><b>Section 06:</b> Case Consultation Regarding Delayed Permanency |                   |
|   | <b>Effective Date:</b> April 1, 2022  | <b>Version:</b> 7 |

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## POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) recognizes the importance of permanency for children to develop healthy relationships with others; lessen the impact of loss, grief, and stress; and promote a sense of connection to others. Therefore, the specialized services of the Adoption Consultant are used when a child is in a family placement, but efforts to achieve permanency have been delayed.

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## PROCEDURE

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Identify children that have:
  - a. Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) ordered by the court, and
  - b. Placement with a family that has expressed intent to provide permanency for the child, but no action toward achieving that goal has been taken for a period of six (6) months.
2. Initiate permanency consultation services by contacting the regional Adoption Consultant;
3. Schedule a Child and Family Team (CFT) Meeting, which will include the prospective adoptive parent or prospective guardian, FCM, Adoption Consultant, child (if age and developmentally appropriate), and CFT members to:
  - a. Discuss the intent of the prospective adoptive parents/guardians to provide a permanent home for the child,
  - b. Identify the strengths and needs of the child and family and any barriers to achieving permanency for the child, and
  - c. Develop a plan with clear action steps to secure permanency for the child within the next six (6) months.
4. Evaluate the child and family's progress toward legal permanency, and adjust the plan as necessary to attain timely permanency; and
5. Refer the child to Adoptive Family Recruitment services to begin the search for a new adoptive family if the current resource family is unable to commit to permanency for the child (see policy 10.07 Adoptive Family Recruitment Services).

The FCM Supervisor will:

1. Provide support and direction during regular case staffing and clinical supervision with the FCM to identify delayed permanency efforts and plan next steps; and

2. Discuss and review the case and steps being made toward permanency on a regular basis.

The Adoption Consultant will:

1. Participate in the CFT meeting to share information with the family about post-adoption services and resources available after the adoption, if applicable, and answer questions about the long-term benefit and impact of permanency for the child; and
2. Provide support to the child and CFT if it is determined that a search for a new adoptive family may be necessary.

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## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### Definitions

#### Clinical Supervision

Clinical Supervision is a process in which an individual with specific knowledge, expertise or skill provides support while overseeing and facilitating the learning of another individual.

#### Guardian

For the purposes of juvenile law, a guardian means a person appointed by a court to have the care and custody of a child or the child's estate, or both.

#### Prospective Adoptive Parent

A prospective adoptive parent is a person who has filed a petition for adoption of a child under IC 31-19-2-99.2.

#### Resource Parent

For the purposes of DCS policy, the term Resource Parent includes a foster/adoptive parent, foster parent, and relative or kinship caregiver.

### Forms and Tools

- [Adoption Consultant Map](#)

### Related Policies

- [5.07 Child and Family Team Meetings](#)
- [10.07 Adoptive Family Recruitment Services](#)

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## LEGAL REFERENCES

N/A

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## **PRACTICE GUIDANCE- DCS POLICY 10.06**

*Practice Guidance is designed to assist DCS staff with thoughtful and practical direction on how to effectively integrate tools and social work practice into daily case management in an effort to achieve positive family and child outcomes. Practice Guidance is separate from Policy.*

N/A

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