

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY COMMITTEE

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ADOPTION AND TPR RELATED ITEMS FROM THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT PLAN

1. Concurrent Plan at 6 Months
 - Develop policy/procedure to require a concurrent permanency plan no later than the six-month permanency review.
 - Issue a numbered memo.
 - Provide training and technical assistance.
 - Include the policy in HFS 44.
2. Permanency Plan Procedures
 - Work with DSCO to develop materials for court personnel and agency staff to further clarify definitions, requirements, and procedures for permanency hearings.
 - This may include issuing joint memos, updating the judicial bench book, and training.
3. Permanency Plan Reviews
 - Develop information materials for permanency plan reviewers.
 - Training requirements for reviewers will be included in HFS 44.
4. Additional Policies
 - Clarify what constitutes an exception to the reasonable efforts requirements and needed documentation.
 - Clarify and communicate if agencies/courts may proceed to TPR if an adoptive resource has not been identified.
5. Foster and Adoptive Family Assessments
 - Combine the foster and adoptive family assessments to streamline the home study process.
6. Family Connections
 - Develop policy related to family interaction/visitation and include in HFS 44.
 - Identification and notification procedures to assure compliance with ICWA.
 - Develop policy and procedure related to locating, adjudicating, and involving non-custodial parents.
 - Policy and procedure regarding searching for relatives and developing a safety assessment of a relative's home.
 - Revision of the Ongoing Child Protective Services Standards and Practice Guidelines to include policy on face-to-face contact with parents, children, and foster parents.