

Supplemental Questions to Support Addressing all forms of Permanency

General

Describe ongoing permanency planning activities?
Are all permanency options discussed and understood?
Are multiple avenues to permanency being explored concurrently?
Intensive family finding?
Sibling connections addressed?
Caregivers supported?
All voices heard including youth?

Trauma

Have trauma assessments been completed and are trauma-informed services being provided (how do you know – what is the evidence to support the answer to this?)
What specific services or activities within the case plan address trauma?
Are caregivers and others with direct connection to the youth receiving trauma information and services?

Reunification

What is preventing reunification from happening today?
Have multi-generational issues in birth family been addressed?
How is the youth's team being engaged to support successful reunification?
Does the birth parent's case plan address specific permanency related goals?
Are visits being used in intentional, stepped-up ways to increase successful reunification?

Kinship Care

Before the child was ever in foster care, were relatives engaged to help support keeping the child at home?
Is the child currently placed with kin?
If not, what is preventing the child from being placed with kin today?
Have both maternal and paternal relatives been explored?
Are multi-generational trauma issues addressed?
What supports will kin need to be successful? Including but not limited to financial
Are kin receiving permanency-specific enrichment learning opportunities and supports?
Are visits with kin being used in intentional, stepped-up ways to increase successful permanence?

Adoption

What are the hurdles to immediately going forward with adoption?
How is the youth's team being engaged to identify and/or support an adoptive family?
If an adoptive family has been identified, do they have information & resources?
Are visits with the prospective adoptive family being used in intentional, stepped-up ways to increase successful adoption?

Guardianship

What is preventing moving forward on guardianship immediately?

How is the youth's team engaged in identifying or supporting a guardian for this youth?

How will tricky issues such as continued contact with birth family or financial support be addressed?

Ask if caregivers:

Are being provided with Key Information

Know how and where to get the right kind of help

Are being provided with trauma-informed support for the child's particular needs

Are receiving all available concrete and financial supports

Siblings

Is this youth currently placed with all siblings?

If not, what is preventing siblings from being together?

Ask about sibling connections at every team meeting and court hearing

If separated, is visitation addressed? Are visits being used in an intentional way to support lifelong connection and permanency?

What additional supports do siblings and their caregivers need?

Youth Development and Engagement:

Who is helping the youth be prepared to fully and effectively participate in key meetings, court hearings, etc from a youth development perspective?

Does the youth have information about all forms of permanency including options such as adult adoption which may occur after leaving care?

Does the youth have access to the types of "normalcy" activities that he or she is most interested in? If not – what is preventing this from happening?

Has the youth been asked,

- "What does permanency mean to you?"
- Are there important people in your life you want to stay connected to?
- Do you understand the differences between permanency options?
- Tell me about your future plans? How might having a family in your life help you to reach your goals?

Has anyone worked through the "Permanency Pact" or similar exercise with this youth?