

**Series:** Permanency and Child Well Being  
**Policy Name:** Concurrent Permanency Planning  
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## Policy

It is the policy of the State of Florida to support Concurrent Permanency Planning to assure timely permanence for children and youth.

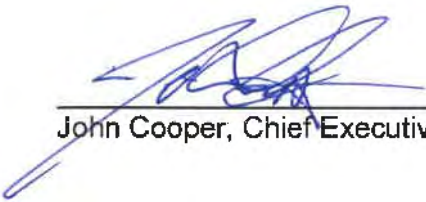
## Procedure

- A. Concurrent Case Planning means establishing an appropriate permanency goal and using reasonable efforts to reunify that child with the parent, while at the same time establishing a concurrent goal that must be one of the following options:
  - a. Adoption when a petition for termination of parental rights has been filed or will be filed,
  - b. Permanent Guardianship of a dependent child under s. 39.6221,
  - c. Permanent Placement with a Fit and Willing Relative under s. 39.6231, or
  - d. Placement in Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement under s. 39.6241.
- 1. The Concurrent Planning discussion will begin at the Case Transfer Staffing and will include the Child Protective Investigator and the Family Care Manager. Every case involving a child in an out-of-home placement shall be evaluated to determine if concurrent case planning is appropriate.
- 2. This discussion will continue at Mediation with the family.
- B. Concurrent Case Planning is a method of case planning that implements several permanency action steps at the same time. This method is intended to reduce the potential harm of out-of-home placement to a child by reducing the length of stay and establishing stability earlier in the case.
- C. The Case Management Agency evaluates early on in the case whether Concurrent Planning is appropriate. Considerations include the history of child welfare involvement, severity of any mental health diagnosis, severity of substance abuse/misuse, pattern of violence, significant criminal and/or incarceration history, severity of abuse or neglect on the child, level of parental engagement with the child and quality of parent's support system. The child shall be involved, depending on his or her age and developmental level. Also, information from others involved with the child shall be obtained such as the child's therapist and school personnel. Medical, educational, emotional, developmental, and child safety issues shall be considered when making determinations regarding concurrent case planning. When establishing a concurrent goal, all permanency options, including expectations, available supports and required timelines must be shared.

1. The Family Care Manager will use the "Poor Prognosis Indicators Tool/Concurrent Planning Guide/Family Assessment of Strengths and Needs" when developing the Case Plan. The Family Care Manager will also provide the participants with an explanation of the purpose of the concurrent planning and its impact. When a goal other than reunification is considered, the parents must be provided information about alternative permanency options.
  2. The first evaluation will occur during the 3–5-month Permanency Staffing, where the discussion of Concurrent Permanency Planning will continue, and the appropriateness of concurrent goals is evaluated.
  3. The ongoing evaluation will occur every 6 months during Permanency Staffings, where the discussion of Concurrent Permanency Planning will continue, and appropriateness of concurrent goal is evaluated.
- D. Concurrent case plans require early decision making and front-loading of services. Front-loading represents an effort to provide immediate, meaningful, and individualized services with intensive follow-up to make determinations as to the most appropriate permanency goal in a timely manner. Prior to approving case plan modifications, supervisors should determine whether there is a genuine concurrent plan that is being actively pursued and sustained in the event behavior change is not likely in a timely way.
- a. The Family Care Manager will ensure all participants have a clear statement of services and tasks related to each goal.
  - b. The case plan, all updates, and attachments required by state and federal law shall be filed with the court and served on all parties. Examples of such documents are medical and educational records, and quarterly accounting statements for Master Trust accounts.
1. When recommending a concurrent goal at a permanency hearing, the new case plan reflecting the concurrent tasks should be filed before the permanency hearing. If the case plan is not filed before the hearing and the concurrent goal is approved by the court, the new case plan must be filed no later than 10 calendar days after the hearing.
- E. Concurrent Planning can be very effective for infants, as well as for children and youth who may be lingering in out-of-home care.
1. For youth who are over the age of thirteen (13) and in out-of-home placement, Case Plans will include a description of Independent Living Services.
- F. Concurrent Planning involves the cooperative agreement of the courts, case management agency, Guardian ad Litem Program, and Children's Legal Services.
- G. The parent/caregiver is informed that they Case Management agency will be actively supporting the parent for reunification while simultaneously working on a backup plan, such as family finding, initiating an out-of-state request for placement through the Interstate Compact on Placement of Children, or placing children in a foster home that is prepared to support reunification efforts in a meaningful and proactive way and willing to adopt should reunification efforts fail. The overall focus is to prevent disruption to the child.

1. Once the parent achieves the Conditions of Return, the Case Management Agency will hold a Reunification Staffing for the family and their informal supports to create the Reunification Plan, Relapse Prevention Plan, and Targeted Reunification date.
- H. Critical to the success of Concurrent Planning is transparency and direct communication with all team members including the parents of intentions and steps that will be taken to implement the planning.

**Approved By:**

  
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John Cooper, Chief Executive Officer

6/5/24  
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Date