

INDIANA COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM POST-TPR BENCHCARD

PERMANENCY PLAN ADOPTION (CHILD NOT IN PRE-ADOPTIVE HOME)

Post-termination of parental rights hearings should focus on the efforts to finalize the permanency plan. The hearings must be “meaningful,” in that all Parties are engaged and held accountable for progress towards the permanency plan.

CHILD – TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO EXPLAIN TO THE CHILD WHAT THE HEARING IS ABOUT, WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT. ASK THE CHILD SPECIFICALLY IF THEY UNDERSTAND.

- HOW IS YOUR PLACEMENT GOING?
- WHAT DISCUSSIONS HAVE YOU HAD ABOUT ADOPTION?
 - A. WHAT DOES ADOPTION MEAN TO YOU?
 - B. DO YOU WANT TO BE ADOPTED? IF NO, WHY NOT?
 - C. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN DECIDING WHO WILL MIGHT BE YOUR ADOPTIVE PARENTS?
- IF YOU WERE IN MY POSITION, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT ME TO KNOW?
- DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR ME?

GAL/CASA

- TELL ME ABOUT YOUR LAST VISIT WITH THE CHILD (WHEN, WHERE, WHAT WAS DISCUSSED)
- DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT THE CURRENT PERMANENCY PLAN?
- WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THE COURT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS CHILD?
- DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR ME?

FAMILY CASE MANAGER (FCM)

- DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT THE PERMANENCY PLAN?
- WHAT FACTORS SUPPORT ADOPTION AS THE CHOSEN PERMANENCY PLAN?
- WHAT SERVICES IS THE CHILD RECEIVING TO PREPARE HIM/HER FOR ADOPTION?
- WHAT SPECIFIC EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE THE LAST HEARING TO LOCATE AN ADOPTIVE HOME FOR THE CHILD?
 - A. WHY HAVE THOSE EFFORTS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL?
 - B. WHAT EFFORTS WILL THE DEPARTMENT MAKE IN THE FUTURE?
 - C. HAS THE CHILD BEEN REFERRED TO THE INDIANA ADOPTION PROGRAM FOR ADOPTION RECRUITMENT SERVICES?
 - D. ON WHAT ADOPTIVE EXCHANGES AND INTERNET SITES IS THE CHILD LISTED?
- HAS THE CHILD’S CASE BEEN REFERRED TO THE REGIONAL PERMANENCY TEAM FOR REVIEW? IF SO, WHEN? WHAT WAS THE RECOMMENDATION? IF NOT, WHY NOT?
- HAS THE CHILD’S CASE BEEN REFERRED TO A PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLE? IF SO, WHEN? WHAT GOALS AND ACTION STEPS WERE DEVELOPED? IF NOT, WHY NOT?
- DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR ME?