

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 6: Court Section 06: Predispositional Report (PDR)	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 8

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) writes a Predispositional Report (PDR) and submits it to the court at least **10 calendar days** before the Dispositional Hearing for any child that a court adjudicates a Child in Need of Services (CHINS). This report provides the court with information outlined in Indiana law.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS will talk with experts related to the child's needs when writing the PDR. The PDR will include:

1. A statement of the child's needs for care, treatment, rehabilitation, or placement;
2. A description of the ongoing efforts to identify all adult relatives/kin;
3. Recommendations for the care, treatment, rehabilitation, or placement of the child;
4. A Financial Report on the parent and child;
5. Details on the parent, guardian, or custodian's involvement, including recommended services, visitation, and alternate forms of contact;
6. Information on the custodial parent or caregiver's current residence;
7. Information about Child and Family Team (CFT) Meetings or Case Plan Conferences and their outcomes, including information about a second Permanency Plan for the child, when concurrent planning; and
8. Input and recommendations from the resource parent.

The following individuals may write their own report for the court to review:

1. The child, based upon age and developmental level; and
2. The child's:
 - a. Parent, guardian, or custodian,
 - b. Resource parent, and
 - c. Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/Guardian ad Litem (GAL).

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-34-18: Chapter 18. Predispositional Report](#)
- [IC 31-34-20-5: Determination and reporting of legal settlement of child](#)
- [42 USC 672: Foster care maintenance payments program](#)