

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 6: Court Section 08: Progress Report	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 11

POLICY OVERVIEW

To keep the court updated on an open Child in Need of Services (CHINS) case, the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) completes a Progress Report to the court at least every three (3) months. This report shows the progress made based on the Dispositional Decree goals and the families work towards a permanent solution for the child.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Progress Report updates the court on these areas:

1. The child's voice;
2. Services for the child and/or parent, guardian, or custodian (including health and education information) (see policy [5.10](#) for reunification timelines;
3. Status of the parent, guardian, or custodian and their progress in meeting parenting responsibilities;
4. Visits between the child and their siblings and/or parent, guardian, or custodian (including visits with noncustodial and incarcerated parents);
5. Compliance and cooperation with following court ordered services;
6. Child's placement;
7. Outcomes and important changes;
8. Updates received from consultations with professionals, Child and Family Team (CFT) members, and other individuals involved in the case;
9. Recommendations for treatment, rehabilitation, permanency plan, and the child's placement;
10. Diligent efforts of DCS to identify and locate all adult relatives of the child throughout the life of the case (see policy [5.23](#)); and
11. Reasonable Efforts DCS has made to finalize the Permanency Plan (REPP) for the child.

DCS will send a Progress Report for every child with an open CHINS case, as follows:

1. At least every three (3) months after the Dispositional Decree; and
2. Anytime the court may order one after the original Dispositional Decree.

DCS will send a Progress Report to the court at least 10 calendar days prior to a Periodic Case Review Hearing or as otherwise ordered by the court (see policy [6.09](#)).

DCS will make a copy of the Progress Report and provide proof of service to the following people at least 48 hours before the hearing:

1. The child/youth, based on their age and understanding (All youth 14 and older should get a copy of the report and have the right to attend court);
2. Each parent (including noncustodial parent), guardian, or custodian of the child;

Note: The court may also provide a factual summary of the Progress Report to each parent, guardian, or custodian or resource parent of the child if the court has determined the report contains information that should not be released to an individual entitled to receive the report.

3. An attorney who representing the child's parent, guardian, or custodian;
4. Resource parent and/or long-term foster parent, if applicable;
5. Prospective adoptive parent named in a petition for adoption of the child if:
 - a. Each Consent to Adoption form of the child has been signed and received by the DCS local office,
 - b. The court having jurisdiction in the adoption case has determined that consent to adoption is not required from a parent, guardian, or custodian, or
 - c. A petition has been filed to terminate the parent-child relationship between the child and any parent who has not signed a written Consent to Adoption form.
6. Anyone who is currently caring for the child and is not required to be licensed under IC 12-17.2 or IC 31-27 to provide care for the child;
7. Any other suitable relative or person who has a significant relationship with the child; and
8. Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and/or Guardian ad Litem (GAL).

Exception: If the court determines, on the record, that the Progress Report contains information that should not be released to any person who is otherwise entitled to receive a Progress Report, the court is not required to make the Progress Report available to that person. The court may provide the individual with a redacted copy of this report. However, the court will provide a copy of the Progress Report to the following:

- a. Each attorney or CASA/GAL that represents the child, and
- b. Each attorney that represents the child's parent, guardian, or custodian.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 12-17.2: DAY CARE REGULATION](#)
- [IC 31-27: CHILD SERVICES: REGULATION OF RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE](#)
- [IC 31-34-20-1.6 Limitation on provision of reunification services to parent, guardian, or custodian following removal of child](#)
- [IC 31-34-20-7: Provision of information by department of child services](#)
- [IC 31-34-21-1: Progress reports; procedure for modification of decree](#)
- [IC 31-34-21-4: Notice of case review; testimony in periodic case review](#)
- [IC 31-34-22-1: Progress report; modification report](#)
- [IC 31-34-22-2: Providing copies of reports and factual summaries of reports](#)
- [42 USC 672: FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM](#)

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