

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 6: Court Section 09: Periodic Case Review Hearing	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 12

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will consistently attend and participate in Periodic Case Review Hearings. These hearings help to make sure:

1. The child is getting the care and services they need;
2. DCS is making reasonable efforts to provide family services; and
3. There is a clear plan to move the case forward.

DCS is responsible for giving notice of the hearings and preparing progress reports.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS will ask the court to hold a Periodic Case Review Hearing at least every six months. These hearings help the court:

1. Decide what should happen next for the child (for example, return to a parent or guardian, stay in out-of-home care, be adopted, live with a legal guardian, a fit and willing relative, or under Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement [APPLA]);
2. Decide if it is in the child's best interest for the juvenile court to keep jurisdiction for any dually adjudicated child (meaning involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems; see policy 2.25);
3. Review and decide if a change is needed to the Permanency Plan, based on input from people who have a strong relationship with the child (see policies 5.08 and 6.10);

Note: If the child has been removed from the care of their parent, guardian, or custodian for at least 12 of the last 22 months, the plan must include one goal that does not involve returning the child to the person they were removed from (see policy 5.15).

4. Decide if the current Dispositional Decree (court order) should stay the same or be changed, and whether it is likely to succeed;

Note: See policy 5.10 for timelines related to reunification services.

5. Identify the steps DCS takes to make sure parents' legal rights are protected during a child welfare case;
6. Decide if DCS has made Reasonable Efforts to Finalize the Permanency Plan (REPP);
7. Decide if DCS should continue to be responsible for Placement and Care (PC) of the child;
8. Identify any parts of the Dispositional Decree that have not been completed;

9. Give the child a chance to share with the court how they feel about their current placement and Permanency Plan; and
10. Review the child's treatment if they are in a QRTP (Qualified Residential Treatment Program) to make sure it is still appropriate.

DCS will give at least 10 days notice before a Periodic Case Review Hearing to these people:

1. The child involved in the case;
2. The child's parent, guardian, or custodian;
3. Any lawyer officially representing a parent, guardian, or custodian;
4. The CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) or GAL (Guardian ad Litem);
5. The resource parent or long-term foster parent;
6. A prospective adoptive parent who is named in an adoption petition if:
 - a. A Consent to Adoption form has been signed and received by the local DCS office,
 - b. The court has decided that consent is not needed from a parent, guardian, or custodian, or
 - c. A Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) petition has been filed for a parent who has not signed a written consent to adoption.
7. Anyone else currently caring for the child who does not need a license under Indiana law;
8. Any other suitable relative or person who has a significant or caretaking relationship with the child; and
9. Service providers or others who are expected to attend the hearing.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 12-17.2: ARTICLE 17.2. DAY CARE REGULATION](#)
- [IC 31-27: ARTICLE 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 31-34-21-2: Periodic case review](#)
- [IC 31-34-21-3: Progress report required before case review](#)
- [IC 31-34-21-4: Notice of case review; testimony in periodic case review](#)
- [IC 31-34-21-5: Determinations; written findings; permanency plan requirements](#)
- [IC 31-34-21-7: Deadline for permanency hearing; permanency plans; continuing juvenile court jurisdiction](#)
- [42 USC 672: FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM](#)
- [42 USC 675\(5\)\(B\): DEFINITIONS](#)