

	<b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b>	
	<b>Chapter 10:</b> Adoption and Guardianship	<b>Effective Date:</b> August 1, 2021
	<b>Section 06:</b> Adoption Consultation for Delayed Permanency	<b>Version:</b> 6

**POLICY OVERVIEW**

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) recognizes the importance of permanency for children to develop healthy relationships with others; lessen the impact of loss, grief, and stress; and promote a sense of connection to others. Therefore, the specialized services of the Indiana Adoption Program (IAP) are used when a child is in a family placement, but efforts to achieve permanency have been delayed.

**PROCEDURE**

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Identify children that have:
  - a. Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) ordered by the court, and
  - b. Placement with a family that has expressed intent to provide permanency for the child, but no action toward achieving that goal has been taken for a period of six (6) months.
2. Initiate permanency consultation services by completing a referral in KidTraks;
3. Schedule a Child and Family Team (CFT) meeting, which will include the prospective adoptive family, FCM, Adoption Consultant, child (if age and developmentally appropriate), and CFT members to:
  - a. Discuss the intent of the prospective adoptive parents to provide a permanent home for the child,
  - b. Identify the strengths and needs of the child and family and any barriers to achieving permanency for the child, and
  - c. Develop a plan with clear action steps to secure permanency for the child within the next six (6) months.
4. Evaluate the child and family’s progress toward legal permanency, and adjust the plan as necessary to attain timely permanency; and
5. Refer the child to Adoptive Family Recruitment services to begin the search for a new adoptive family if the current resource family is unable to commit to permanency for the child (see policy 10.07 Adoptive Family Recruitment Services).

The FCM Supervisor will:

1. Provide support and direction during regular staffing and clinical supervision with the FCM to identify delayed permanency efforts and plan next steps; and
2. Discuss and review the case and steps being made toward permanency on a regular basis.

The Adoption Consultant will:

1. Participate in the CFT meeting to share information with the family about post-adoption services and resources available after the adoption and answer questions about the long-term benefit and impact of adoption for the child; and
2. Provide support to the child and CFT if it is determined that a search for a new adoptive family or guardian is necessary.

## LEGAL REFERENCES

N/A

## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### Definitions

#### Resource Parent

For the purpose of DCS policy, the term Resource Parent includes a foster/adoptive parent, foster parent, and relative or kinship caregiver.

#### Clinical Supervision

Clinical Supervision is a process in which an individual with specific knowledge, expertise or skill provides support while overseeing and facilitating the learning of another individual.

### Forms and Tools

N/A

### Related Policies

- [5.07 Child and Family Team Meetings](#)
- [10.07 Adoptive Family Recruitment Services](#)