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|  | <b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES<br/>CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b>     |                                     |
|   | <b>Chapter 11:</b> Older Youth Services                                  | <b>Effective Date:</b> July 1, 2019 |
|   | <b>Section 27:</b> Permanency for Older Youth in Collaborative Care (CC) | <b>Version:</b> 3                   |

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| <b>STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE</b> |
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The Department of Child Services (DCS) is committed to ensuring permanency for youth in Collaborative Care. In extraordinary cases, the legal permanency options of Reunification, Adoption, Legal Guardianship, and Permanent Placement with a Fit and Willing Relative may not meet a particular youth’s permanency needs. When such cases have been identified, alternative types of Another Planned Permanency Living Arrangements (APPLA) may be considered which include, but are not limited to:

1. Relational Permanency;
2. Adult Adoption; or
3. Re-connecting with biological family members.

**Note:** APPLA is only an option for youth 16 years of age and older. DCS must document why every other permanency plan option is not in the best interest of the child, as well as, document continuous diligent efforts to locate adult relatives of the youth (see Practice Guidance).

DCS will ensure Collaborative Care (CC) youth can identify at least one (1) supportive adult who he or she believes will be a lifelong connection. If the CC youth is unable to identify a supportive adult, a referral to the Youth Connections Program may be made.

Code References

1. [IC 31-28-5.8-7: Periodic reviews by court; notice; participation; orders](#)
2. [IC 31-34-21-7.5: Placement prohibited in residence of individual who committed certain acts or offenses; criminal history check; contents of permanency plans](#)

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| <b>PROCEDURE</b> |
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The Collaborative Care Case Manager (3CM) will:

1. Assess the youth’s permanency status by engaging the youth in conversations regarding the youth’s perspective on involving supportive adults and his or her interest in pursuing those connections;
2. Utilize the [Kinship Connection Diagram](#) as a tool to aid the youth in identifying possible supportive adults or connections;
3. Engage the Child and Family Team (CFT) in conversations regarding the youth’s permanency status;
4. Make a referral for the Youth Connections Program if the youth cannot identify a supportive adult or connection;
5. Document all diligent efforts made to locate adult relatives; and
6. Document the reasons every other permanency plan options are not in the best interest of the child.

## PRACTICE GUIDANCE

While youth and young adults are still in out-of-home placement related programs, efforts should be made to enhance and develop existing relationships with adults who youth trust or with whom trust could be strengthened. Building the capacity of existing relationships to offer more empathetic and insightful emotional support could provide important resources for the youth as he or she leaves out-of-home placement and continues to deal with the emotions and questions raised by his or her experiences prior to, and during, placement.

APPLA is a federal permanency option that is to be used sparingly, in very limited situations when attempts to achieve other permanency options have not been successful. APPLA may only be identified as a permanency plan for a youth age 16 and older, and it must be supported and approved by the CFT. When a youth age 16 and older has a permanency plan of APPLA, documentation is required at each periodic case review hearing. The documentation should reflect intensive, ongoing, and current diligent efforts to return the child home or secure placement with a fit and willing relative (including adult siblings), a legal guardian, or an adoptive parent, including through efforts that utilize search technology (including social media) to find relatives for the youth. DCS must document compelling reasons why it continues to be in the best interest of the youth to have APPLA as a permanency plan and why alternative permanency plans, such as Reunification, Adoption, Legal Guardianship, or Placement with a Fit and Willing Relative, are not in the best interest of the child.

## FORMS AND TOOLS

[Kinship Connection Diagram](#)

## RELATED INFORMATION

### **Relational Permanency**

Samuels (2008)<sup>1</sup> defined relational permanency as a concept that defines familial relationships in ways that extend beyond biological connections, including familial ties formed during care and after exiting out-of-home placement. “The role of the biological family must be extended beyond that family’s official or legal status in a child’s permanency plan” (p. 5). Youth in out-of-home placement related settings need to have emotional support, peer and insider wisdom for insight and understanding to make a smoother transition into adulthood.

### **Legal Permanency**

Permanency, as defined by Child Welfare Systems, is a safe, stable, secure home and family. There are five (5) federal Permanency Goals, which are recognized in a court of law:

1. Reunification,
2. Adoption,
3. Guardianship,
4. Fit & Willing Relative, and
5. Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (only for youth 16 years of age and older).

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<sup>1</sup>Samuels, G. (2008). *A Reason, A Season, A Lifetime: Relational Permanence Among Young Adults with Foster Care Backgrounds*. Retrieved from [http://www.chapinhall.org/sites/default/files/old\\_reports/415.pdf](http://www.chapinhall.org/sites/default/files/old_reports/415.pdf).