

Permanent Resolutions: Questions to Consider

There are only two truly permanent options: return to parents and adoption. These resolutions are most possible when the following questions can be answered and the underlying issues they suggest have been dealt with.

Return to Parents	Adoption
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have issues that brought the child into care been addressed by the agency? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are we ready to proceed with a termination of parental rights (TPR) case?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the parents made the changes that the child protection agency requested? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do legal grounds exist?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the child protection agency caseworker observed and documented a reduction of risk? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have we also considered the best interest issues that must be presented to the judge?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have the visits we observed told us about the parents' ability to care for the child? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How long will the court process take?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have we considered recommending a trial placement as a way to observe actual changes in childcare? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the parents been asked to release the child for adoption?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have new issues that relate to risk been observed and addressed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the child already living with caretakers who are willing and able to adopt?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the child protection agency changed the rules or "raised the bar" in reference to expectations that are not related to risk?? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there relatives who are available to adopt?

Session 1: Handouts

Return to Parents	Adoption
Would the child protection agency remove this child today?	How soon can the child be placed?
Is this a multi-problem family that is likely to relapse?	Who can help the child through the placement process?
What services can be put in place to prevent relapse?	Have we assessed and evaluated the child's particular needs and strengths?
Have the legal and/or biological father(s) been identified?	What is the child's relationship with his/her siblings?
Have we recognized the child's grief and need to reconnect to the family of origin?	Should the child be placed with siblings? Can the child be placed with siblings?
	Have we identified a placement option that will be able to meet the child's needs?
	Have the child's ethnic and cultural needs been considered and addressed?
	Are we holding up the child's placement waiting for a specific type of family?
	Are the child's needs so severe that finding appropriate parents is unlikely?