At a Glance

	Required Participation	Adversary Hearing	Status Hearing	Permanency Hearing Before Final Order	Permanency Hearing After Final Order
Hearing set timely	14 days	14 days	60 days	1st at 180 days, thereafter, 120 days	180 days, except 1st at 90 days if TPR
Court of Continuing, Exclusive Jurisdiction	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Child AAL and GAL appointed	Required before Temporary Orders Hearing (AAL only)	No later than 14-day Hearing	Required before 14-day Hearing	Yes	Yes, AAL or GAL or attorney in dual role required as long as child remains in DFPS conservatorship
Parent Attorney appointed	Required before Temporary Orders Hearing	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Notice of Hearing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Court Report filed and provided	Not Required	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Identify all parties and swear witnesses	Yes	Not Required	Not Required	Yes	Yes
Inquire about absent parties	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Inquire about diligent efforts	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Address service on parties	Yes	Yes	Yes, if outstanding	Yes, if outstanding	No
Address parentage issues	No	Yes	Yes, if outstanding	Yes, if outstanding	No
Issue orders regarding service	Yes	Yes	Yes, if outstanding	Yes, if outstanding	No
Admonish parents of right to attorney	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Confirm rights and information provided to AP	No	Yes	No	No	No
Admonish parents of TPR	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Aggravated circumstances	No	Yes	No	No	No
Inquire about and document Indian heritage	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No, unless new information
Indian Child Welfare Act, if applicable	No	Clear and convincing, expert testimony	Active efforts	Active efforts	No
Child Placement Resources Form	No	Yes	Yes, if outstanding	No	No
Child asked about potential placements	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Initial Home Studies on file	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Child present	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

At a Glance *continued*

	Required Participation	Adversary Hearing	Status Hearing	Permanency Hearing Before Final Order	Permanency Hearing After Final Order
If AAL hasn't seen client, determine good cause	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Review current and alternative placement	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Determine if able to place with relative, cite evidence	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
If with relative, inform about PCA	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Temporary Visitation Plan on file	No	Yes	No	No	No
Review Visitation Plan	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Service Plan development	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Review Service Plan	Yes	No	Yes	Review Compliance	Review Compliance
Review permanency goal	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Review education goals, progress, and needs	No	No	If needed	Yes	Yes
Education Decision-Maker identified	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Review medical care	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Medical Consenter identified	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Child's opinion on medical care known	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Normalcy activities	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Reasonable Efforts findings required	No	Yes (prevent removal, return the child home, or place with a non-custodial parent)	Yes (Service Plan requirements)	Yes (execution of Permanency Plan)	Yes (execution of Permanency Plan)
Determine dismissal date	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Transitional Living Plan on file if child is 16 or older	N/A	No	No	No	Yes
Independent Living Skills Assessment conducted, if required	N/A	No	No	Yes	Yes
Review Extended Jurisdiction	N/A	No	No	No	Yes
Set next hearing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Issue order and provide to parties	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Required Participation in Services Hearing Checklist

Statutory

Prior to the Hearing:

- ☐ Hearing within 14 days of petition unless good cause for extension
- ☐ Child's GAL/AAL appointed
- ☐ Parents' AAL appointed
- ☐ Parties served

At the Hearing:

- ☐ Determine need for language interpretation
- ☐ Identify parties present and served
- ☐ Determine indigence
- ☐ Determine good cause if AAL has not seen child
- ☐ Ensure services are specific and narrowly tailored

Court Findings

At the End of the Hearing:

- ☐ Determine if sufficient evidence to order participation in services by parent(s) or caregiver(s) for the child; if not, deny required participation in services. Evidence sufficient to satisfy a person of ordinary prudence and caution that:
  - Abuse or neglect occurred, or
  - Substantial risk of abuse or neglect, or
  - Continuing danger to the physical health or safety of child caused by an act or failure to act by named party/parties; and
  - Services necessary to ensure the physical health or safety of child.
- ☐ **ISSUE COURT ORDER**
  - State findings;
  - Make appropriate temporary orders under Chapter 105 to ensure safety of the child, excluding orders that place the child outside the child's home or in the conservatorship of DFPS;
  - Order the participation in services narrowly tailored to address court findings;
  - Set dismissal deadline of 180 days; and
  - Schedule review hearing within 90 days.

Review Hearings:

- ☐ Address continued need for temporary order and dismiss if no longer a continued need.
- ☐ Set review hearing within 90 days if temporary order continued.
- ☐ Determine if good cause to extend dismissal deadline if DFPS shows continued need for services beyond original 180-day dismissal deadline.

Best Practices

- ☐ Engage parties with direct questions
- ☐ Review services with parents
- ☐ Set Review Hearing date within 90 days
- ☐ Give notice in open court
- ☐ Engage parties with direct questions:
  - *Do you understand the purpose of the court ordered services?*
- ☐ Consider the following questions:
  - *How are these services specific to this child and this family?*
  - *Are there issues impacting this family that we need to understand?*
  - *Is there a need for ongoing services or can the case be dismissed today?*

Adversary Hearing Checklist

Statutory

Prior to the Hearing:

- ☐ Hearing within 14 days of removal unless temporary order extended
- ☐ Child's GAL/AAL appointed
- ☐ Parties served
- ☐ Certified copy of child's birth certificate filed separately under seal
- ☐ CCEJ identified

At the End of the Hearing:

- ☐ Determine need for language interpretation
- ☐ Identify parties present and served
- ☐ Inform parents of right to attorney
- ☐ Determine indigence
- ☐ Before commencing the hearing:
  - Confirm DFPS informed the alleged perpetrator of their right to create an audio or video recording of the interview and to request an administrative review of DFPS findings
  - Confirm that upon first contact DFPS provided the alleged perpetrator with information relating to investigation procedures
- ☐ DFPS provided notice to relatives
- ☐ Child Placement Resources Form/efforts to identify/locate parties not present
- ☐ Child provided opportunity to provide information about possible relative or other caregiver
- ☐ CPS and criminal background checks conducted and home studies initiated
- ☐ Determine if child can be placed with relative and note evidence
- ☐ If child with relative, inform about Permanency Care Assistance (PCA)
- ☐ Inquire about Indian/Native American Heritage
- ☐ Determine good cause if AAL has not seen child
- ☐ Temporary Family Visitation Plan

Court Findings

At the End of the Hearing:

- ☐ Determine sufficient evidence regarding the parent from whom the child was removed to grant DFPS TMC of child; if not, return child to that parent
- ☐ Document danger to child to return to home or remain in home and remaining in home is contrary to welfare; reasonable efforts to prevent removal and to return child home
- ☐ If TMC to DFPS, inform parents that rights may be terminated or limited
- ☐ If cite by pub needed, may render temporary order anyway
- ☐ Determine aggravated circumstances alleged or exist
- ☐ If family violence, protective order necessary or available
- ☐ Place the child with a parent not involved in the removal unless there is evidence that the parent cannot be located or is unwilling to take possession of the child or possession of the child by the parent constitutes a continuing danger to the child despite reasonable efforts to enable possession
- ☐ Place child with a relative unless not in best interest
- ☐ Determine whether DFPS is able to place child with relative or other designated caregiver; note evidence supporting finding either way
- ☐ **ISSUE COURT ORDER**
  - Service
  - Notice of removal
  - Parentage or genetic testing
  - Dismissal date
  - Transfer CCEJ, if applicable
  - Describe reasonable efforts

Adversary Hearing Checklist

continued

Best Practices

- ☐ Engage parties with direct questions
- ☐ Review services with parents
- ☐ Set Status Hearing date
- ☐ Open court notice
- ☐ Consider the following questions:
  - *What is preventing this child from returning home today?*
  - How is my decision specific to this child and this family?
  - Are there issues impacting this family that we need to understand?

Well-being Issues

- ☐ School stability, education goals, progress, and issues, and Education Decision-Maker
- ☐ Medical care and behavioral or psychiatric care
- ☐ Young adult presence at hearing or opinion about education or medical care

Status Hearing Checklist

Statutory

Prior to the Hearing:

- ☐ Hearing 60 days after DFPS appointed TMC, unless aggravated circumstances
- ☐ Persons given 10 days' notice of hearing
- ☐ If parent is unrepresented, inform of right to counsel, determine indigency, and appoint attorney
- ☐ Visitation Plan filed at least 10 days before
- ☐ Family Plan of Service filed no later than 45th day after DFPS appointed TMC
- ☐ Developmentally appropriate assessment no later than 45th day after DFPS appointed TMC
- ☐ Notice of Education Decision-Maker (Form 2085-E) filed
- ☐ Designation of Medical Consenter (Form 2085-B) filed
- ☐ Dismissal date set

At the Hearing:

- ☐ Identify parties present and served
- ☐ DFPS due diligence to locate parties
- ☐ DFPS provided notice to relatives
- ☐ Need for language interpretation
- ☐ Inform parents of right to attorney
- ☐ Paternity issues/Paternity Registry
- ☐ Child Placement Resources Form filed
- ☐ Review current and alternative placements
- ☐ Child provided opportunity to provide information about possible relative or other caregiver
- ☐ If present, give caregiver opportunity to provide information
- ☐ If child with relative, inform about Permanency Care Assistance (PCA)
- ☐ If the child is placed in a RTC or QRTP, whether continued placement in an RTC or QRTP is appropriate
- ☐ Review conservatorship and substitute care of the child
- ☐ Inquire about Indian/Native American Heritage
- ☐ DFPS held or plans to hold Permanency Planning Meeting
- ☐ If AAL hasn't seen client, determine good cause
- ☐ Address citizenship issues
- ☐ Review child's medical care

Family Plan of Service (SP)

- ☐ Determine if:
  - SP developed jointly with parents
  - Each term reviewed/discussed with parents; parents understand
  - Parents informed of rights with SP process
  - Noted if parent not able or willing to participate in development of SP
  - Plan has primary and concurrent goal
  - Plan is signed by parents and DFPS
- ☐ Parent has opportunity to comment on SP
- ☐ Court can modify SP at any time

Visitation Plan (VP)

- ☐ Review VP:
  - Age and safety of child at/during visitation
  - Desires of each parent regarding visitation
  - Location of each parent and child
  - Transportation to/from visits
  - DFPS/other resources available to support visitation
- ☐ Court may modify VP at any time
- ☐ If find visitation not in child's best interest, include in order reasons and specific steps parent must take to have visitation

Status Hearing Checklist

continued

Court Findings

At the End of the Hearing:

- ☐ Determine whether SP narrowly tailored for specific issues identified by DFPS
- ☐ Determine whether any SP with goal of reunification adequately ensures that reasonable efforts made to enable parents to provide safe environment for child
- ☐ Advise/warn parents & parties:
  - Custodial rights and duties subject to restriction or termination or child not returned unless parent demonstrates willingness and ability to provide child with safe environment
  - Progress under SP reviewed at all hearings, including review of newly acquired knowledge or skills
- ☐ Incorporate SP into court order and render additional, appropriate orders to require compliance with or implement SP
- ☐ **ISSUE COURT ORDER:**
  - Dismissal date
  - May transfer to court of continuing, exclusive jurisdiction, if CCEJ exists

Best Practices

- ☐ Set first Permanency Hearing Before Final Order and announce in open court
- ☐ Check status of initiated home studies
- ☐ Engage parties with direct questions
  - *Do you understand the purpose of the Service Plan?*
  - *What about this plan is narrowly tailored to address specific issues present in Ms. Smith's case?*
- ☐ Ask direct and specific questions of the Department about reasonable efforts:
- ☐ Consider the following questions:
  - *What is preventing this child from returning home today?*
  - *How is my decision specific to this child and this family?*
  - *Are there issues impacting this family that we need to understand?*

Well-being Issues

- ☐ School stability, education goals, progress, and issues, and Education Decision-Maker
- ☐ Medical Consenter may need to be identified or updated
- ☐ Child received Texas Health Steps exam no later than 30th day after DFPS appointed TMC.
- ☐ Review psychiatric care, especially if child or youth prescribed psychotropic medication
- ☐ Young adult presence at hearing or opinion about education or medical care

Permanency Hearing Before Final Order Checklist

Statutory

Prior to the Hearing:

- ☐ If first Permanency Hearing (PH), scheduled within 180 days after DFPS named TMC
- ☐ If subsequent PH, scheduled within 120 days of last PH
- ☐ 10 days' notice provided
- ☐ DFPS Permanency Progress Report filed at least 10 days before PH and includes:
  - Child's Permanency Plan
  - Summary of Medical Care
- ☐ The court file includes:
  - Notification of Medical Consenter Form 2085-B
  - Education Decision-Maker Form 2085-E
  - Visitation Plan

At the Hearing:

- ☐ Identify those present
- ☐ Child in attendance
- ☐ DFPS due diligence to locate and serve parties not present
- ☐ Paternity issues/Paternity Registry
- ☐ DFPS asked parents to provide locating information for absent parents, alleged fathers, or relatives
- ☐ If parent is unrepresented, inform of right to counsel, determine indigency, and appoint attorney
- ☐ Need for language interpretation
- ☐ Inquire about Indian/Native American Heritage
- ☐ Address citizenship issues
- ☐ Compliance with orders/Service Plan and progress made
- ☐ Parties and those present heard and provided opportunity to present evidence
- ☐ If caregiver is present, must be given opportunity to provide information about the child
- ☐ Review efforts to place child with a relative
- ☐ If child with relative, inform about Permanency Care Assistance
- ☐ Review Permanency Progress Report:
  - Safety and well-being of child
  - Child's needs (medical/special)
  - Child's placement
  - Evidence as to whether DFPS is able to place with relative
  - Child's primary and alternative permanency goals
  - DFPS reasonable efforts to finalize permanency plan
  - Child provided opportunity to express opinion about medical care
  - Child provided opportunity to provide information about possible relative or other caregiver
  - For child receiving psychotropic medication, whether child has:
    - ◦ been provided non-pharmacological interventions.
    - ◦ seen prescribing physician every 90 days for review
  - Child's Education Decision-Maker identified, education needs and goals identified and addressed, and major changes in school performance or disciplinary events
  - If 14 or older, transition services to assist from care to independent living
  - For child with goal of APPLA:
    - ◦ child's desired permanency outcome; and
    - ◦ whether APPLA best permanency plan; if so, provide compelling reasons why not in child's best interest to:
      - ▪ return home,
      - ▪ be adopted,
      - ▪ be placed with legal guardian, or
      - ▪ be placed with a fit and willing relative
    - ◦ whether DFPS has conducted an Independent Living Skills (ILS) assessment for all youth 16 and older in TMC
    - ◦ whether DFPS has addressed the goals identified in the youth's permanency plan
    - ◦ if 16 or older, whether DFPS provided required documents
    - ◦ if 18 or older, or the disabilities of minority were removed, whether DFPS provided youth with required documents and information
- ☐ If the child is placed in an RTC or QRTP, whether continued placement in an RTC or QRTP is appropriate
- ☐ Child receiving appropriate medical care
- ☐ Child has regular, ongoing opportunities for age-appropriate normalcy activities, including those not in child's service plan
- ☐ If AAL hasn't seen client, determine good cause

Permanency Hearing Before Final Order Checklist

continued

Court Findings

At the End of the Hearing:

- ☐ Return the child to the parent or parents unless, with respect to each parent, there is a continuing danger to the health and safety of the child and returning home is contrary to the welfare of the child.
- ☐ Advise/warn custodial rights and duties subject to restriction or termination
- ☐ Incorporate changes or modifications to Service Plan into order
- ☐ Likely date child returned home, placed for adoption, or placed in PMC
- ☐ Set next PH within 120 days or sooner
- ☐ Announce dismissal date and any upcoming hearings
- ☐ **ISSUE COURT ORDER**:
  - Any changes or modifications to Service Plan
  - Notice of subsequent hearings
  - Findings related to placement of the child and return of the child to the parent(s)

Best Practices

- ☐ If lack of notice, consider resetting hearing to secure attendance
- ☐ Engage parties with direct questions
- ☐ Engage youth
- ☐ Ask DFPS direct, child-specific questions about reasonable efforts towards primary and concurrent goal
- ☐ If not moving to positive permanency, set timelines and tasks to be completed prior to next hearing
- ☐ AAL knowledgeable about child's needs and legal objectives
- ☐ Set next PH at 90 instead of 120 days
- ☐ For Older Youth:
  - Family Group Decision Making
  - Preparation for Adult Living (PAL)
  - If will turn 18 while in foster care:
    - discuss extended foster care and trial independence
    - ensure referrals to Texas Workforce Commission
    - ensure appropriate documents in possession before leave care
- ☐ Consider the following questions:
  - *What is preventing this child from returning home today?*
  - *How is my decision specific to this child and this family?*
  - *Are there issues impacting this family that we need to understand?*

Well-being Issues

Medical and Mental Health Care

- ☐ Summary of medical care:
  - Nature of emergency medical care
  - All medical and mental health treatment receiving and progress
  - Any medication prescribed/progress
  - Caregiver compliance with treatment plan
  - Adverse reaction or side effects
  - Diagnosis or diagnostic tests
  - Activities to avoid that affect effectiveness of treatment
  - Other info required

Education and Educational Decisions

- ☐ Enrolled and in appropriate grade
- ☐ Remain in current school, even if placement changes
- ☐ If change placement, determine:
  - Where child wants to attend school
  - How child will be transported
  - Whether change coordinated with grading and testing periods
  - Whether records/credits transferred
- ☐ If 0-3, child assessed for developmental milestones through ECI
- ☐ If 0-5, enrolled in Early Head Start, Head Start, or Pre-Kindergarten
- ☐ Education Decision-Maker Form 2085-E on file
- ☐ School supports and disciplinary issues
- ☐ Extracurricular activities/normalcy
- ☐ Evaluated for/receiving special education
- ☐ If 14 or older, postsecondary education plan

Final Hearing Checklist for Non-Jury Trial

Statutory

Prior to the Hearing:

- ☐ Notice provided to parties within 45 days of trial
- ☐ All parties served
- ☐ Legal relief properly pleaded
- ☐ Compliance with Indian Child Welfare Act, if applicable

At the Hearing:

- ☐ Note appearances of all parties present
- ☐ Take announcements about readiness to proceed to trial
- ☐ Rule on any pending pretrial motions
- ☐ Opening Statements, unless waived
- ☐ Presentation of evidence
- ☐ Evidence
  - Grounds for termination
  - Best interest of the child; for factors *see Holley v. Adams*:
    - desires of the child
    - emotional and physical needs of child now and in future
    - emotional and physical danger to child now and in future
    - parental abilities of individuals seeking custody
    - programs available to assist those individuals to promote best interest of child
    - plans for child by these individuals or by agency seeking custody
    - stability of home or proposed placement
    - acts or omissions of parent which may indicate that existing parent-child relationship not a proper one
    - any excuse for acts or omissions of the parent
  - Reasonable efforts by DFPS
- ☐ Closing arguments, unless waived

Court Findings

At the End of the Hearing:

- ☐ Determine if met burden of proof:
  - Termination of Parental Rights: Clear and Convincing Evidence (Grounds + Best Interest + Reasonable Efforts)
  - Conservatorship: Preponderance of the Evidence
  - If ICWA applies: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt
- ☐ If termination, appoint DFPS or individual as managing conservator (MC)
- ☐ If no termination and DFPS awarded MC, must find that:
  - Appointment of parent not in child's best interest because would significantly impair child's physical health or emotional development (Clear and Convincing Evidence); and
  - Not in child's best interest to appoint relative of child or another person as managing conservator
- ☐ If no termination and DFPS awarded MC, consider whether:
  - The child will turn 18 in not less than 3 years;
  - The child is at least 12 years old or has continuously expressed a strong desire against being adopted; and
  - Needs and desires of child
- ☐ Advise parties of right to appeal
- ☐ Set Permanency Hearing After Final Order (PHAFO) within 90 days if MC granted to DFPS with termination
- ☐ Set PHAFO within six months if MC granted to DFPS without termination
- ☐ Continue appointment of child's attorney ad litem (AAL), or guardian ad litem (GAL), or attorney in the dual role as long as the child is in the conservatorship of DFPS

Best Practices

- ☐ Remind Parent Attorney of appellate duties
- ☐ Set initial hearings sooner than statutorily required to ensure progress toward child's permanency goal

Permanency Hearing After Final Order Checklist

Statutory

Prior to the Hearing:

- ☐ If parental rights terminated, first Permanency Hearing (PH) within 90 days of final order, then at least every six months thereafter
- ☐ If parent rights not terminated, first PH within six months of final order
- ☐ 10 days' notice of hearing

At the Hearing:

- ☐ Identify those present
- ☐ Child in attendance
- ☐ Review DFPS efforts to notify of hearing
- ☐ Review Permanency Progress Report:
  - Child's safety and well-being
  - Child's needs (medical/special)
  - Child provided opportunity to provide information about possible relative or other caregiver
  - Child's placement, noting evidence as to whether DFPS can place child with relative
  - If in institutional care, efforts to ensure least restrictive environment
  - Primary/alternative permanency goals
  - DFPS reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan:
    - due diligence to place for adoption if rights terminated and child eligible; or
    - APPLA, including appointing relative as PMC or returning the child to parent, if appropriate for child
  - For child with APPLA goal:
    - desired permanency outcome; and
    - whether APPLA best permanency plan; if so, compelling reasons why not in child's best interest to:
      - return home,
      - be placed for adoption,
      - be placed with legal guardian, or
      - be placed with fit and willing relative.
    - whether DFPS has conducted an Independent Living Skills (ILS) assessment for all youth 16 and older in TMC or PMC
    - whether DFPS has conducted an ILS for all youth 14 and older in PMC
    - whether DFPS has addressed the goals identified in the youth's permanency plan
- ☐ DFPS Permanency Progress Report filed 10 days before hearing; includes
  - Summary of Medical Care
- ☐ The court file includes:
  - Notification of Medical Consenter Form 2085-B
  - Education Decision-Maker Form 2085-E
    - if 16 or older, whether DFPS provided required documents
    - if 18 or older, or disabilities of minority were removed, whether DFPS provided youth with required documents and information
  - If 14 or older, services to assist in transitioning from care to independent living in community
  - Receiving appropriate medical care and provided opportunity to express opinion on medical care
  - If receiving psychotropic medication:
    - provided appropriate non-pharmacological interventions, therapies, or strategies to meet needs; or
    - seen by prescribing physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice nurse at least once every 90 days
  - Education Decision-Maker and education needs and goals identified, major changes in school performance or serious disciplinary events
  - For child in PMC without termination, whether DFPS to provide services to parent for up to 6 months after PH if:
    - child not placed with relative or other individual, including foster parent, seeking PMC; and
    - court determines further efforts at reunification with parent:
      - in best interest of child; and
      - likely to result in child's safe return to parent
  - DFPS identified family or other caring adult with permanent commitment to child
  - If the child is placed in an RTC or QRTP, whether continued placement in an RTC or QRTP is appropriate

Permanency Hearing After Final Order Checklist

continued

- ☐ Review DFPS efforts to ensure the child has regular, ongoing opportunities to engage in age-appropriate normalcy activities, including activities not listed in the child's service plan.
- ☐ Address citizenship issues
- ☐ Ensure those present given opportunity to be heard and if caregiver is present, must be allowed to provide information
- ☐ If child with relative, inform about Permanency Care Assistance
- ☐ Confer with child about permanency plan
- ☐ If AAL has not seen client, determine good cause

Court Findings

At the End of the Hearing:

- ☐ Issue court order
- ☐ Set next PH within six months

Best Practices

- ☐ If inadequate notice, consider resetting hearing to secure attendance
- ☐ Engage parties with direct questions
- ☐ Engage youth
- ☐ Ask DFPS direct, child-specific questions about both primary and concurrent goal
- ☐ Next PH by 90 or 120 instead of 180 days
- ☐ For youth who will turn 18 while in care:
  - Discuss extended foster care and trial independence
  - Ensure referrals to Texas Workforce Commission
  - Ensure delivery of documents before youth leaves care
- ☐ Youth advised of eligibility for Family Group Decision Making or Circles of Support to discuss future plans
- ☐ Youth enrolled in PAL or provided transitional services after 14th birthday
- ☐ Consider the following questions:
  - *What is preventing this child from achieving positive permanency?*
  - *How is my decision specific to this child and this family?*
  - *Are there issues impacting this family that we need to understand?*

Well-being Issues

Medical and Mental Health Care

- ☐ Summary of medical care:
  - Nature of emergency medical care
  - All medical and mental health treatment receiving and progress
  - Any medication prescribed/progress
  - Caregiver compliance with treatment plan
  - Adverse reaction or side effects
  - Diagnosis or diagnostic tests
  - Activities to avoid that affect effectiveness of treatment
  - Other info required

Education and Educational Decisions

- ☐ Enrolled in school/in appropriate grade
- ☐ Remains in current school, if placement change
- ☐ If placement change, determine:
  - Where child wants to attend school
  - How the child will be transported
  - Whether change coordinated with grading and testing periods
  - Whether records/credits transferred
- ☐ If 0-3, child assessed for developmental milestones through ECI
- ☐ If 0-5, child enrolled in Early Head Start, Head Start, or Pre-Kindergarten
- ☐ Education Decision-Maker Form 2085-E on file
- ☐ School supports and disciplinary issues
- ☐ Extracurricular activities/normalcy
- ☐ Evaluated/receiving special ed services
- ☐ If 14 or older, postsecondary education plan