

Permanency Hearings



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Core Competencies II
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Permanency Hearing: Where is this all going?

C.R.S. – 19-2-702(1)

Purpose of a permanency hearings are to plan for the future status of a child who has been adjudicated dependent or neglected and to provide a stable and permanent home for the child in the shortest time possible. (Applies to all children in out of home placement)



More plainly - permanency hearings are in place to ensure children are not languishing in care without a plan for case closure.



Best practice is to always be evaluating for permanency – not just at the hearing – but hearing is a good touchpoint to revisit case status. It is also the hearing that provides basis for the what the department needs to be making reasonable efforts toward.

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Merriam-Webster Definition of Family



The basic unit in society traditionally consisting of two parents rearing their children.

A group of individuals living under one roof and usually under one head.

A group of persons of common ancestry

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Versus: Urban Dictionary Definition of Family



A group of people, usually of the same blood (but do not have to be), who genuinely love, trust care about and look out for each other. Not to be mistaken with relatives sharing the same household who hate each other.

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Sense of Belonging Matters for All Ages!

Not just a touchy, feely concept – it is backed by science.

The AAP refers to juvenile relational health as kid's SSNRs – **safe, stable, nurturing** relationships

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/148/2/e2021052582/179805/Preventing-Childhood-Toxic-Stress-Partnering-With?autologincheck=redirected>

Safe

Stable

Nurturing

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Child's Voice at Hearings



Statute provides that the court shall consult with the child in a developmentally appropriate manner.

Be sure to consult with your child or youth regarding what the hearing will look like if they are attending.

Prepare them for what others will say.

Discuss with them who all will be in the courtroom.

Communicate with them what you intend to share with the court – and particularly when it relates to stating their position.

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Tools for the Conversation



SESAME STREET IN COMMUNITIES

[HTTPS://SESAMESTREETINCOMMUNITIES.ORG/](https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/)



TRAUMA INFORMED LEGAL ADVOCACY
GUIDE

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Nuts and Bolts of Permanency Hearings: Highlights of C.R.S. 19-3-702

Permanency plan proposed by the department must be sent at least 5 days in advance of the permanency planning hearing.

Court must enter one of the following options:

Return home, adoption with a relative, permanent placement with a relative through legal guardianship or allocation of parental responsibilities, adoption with a non-relative, permanent placement with a non-relative through legal guardianship or allocation of parental responsibilities.

OPPLA considerations
Cannot do concurrent planning with OPPLA, but the Department is still required to make efforts to prepare kids for independent living starting at age 14.

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Questions?

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