






# CONCURRENT PLANNING

Concurrent planning is a process in which caseworkers explore multiple permanent family options. Reunification is the primary case plan goal for a child in foster care.

When reunification is not an option, concurrent planning can help find a permanent placement for a child by looking for multiple solutions in case the primary plan is not possible. Concurrent planning works to find the best placement for a child and their family, while keeping time in foster care in mind.

## Concurrent Planning is Designed to:

-  Minimize a child's stay in foster care.
-  Pursue all kinship options.
-  Support the child's family, culture, school and community relationships.
-  Achieve safe permanency for children.
-  Engage children in their future planning.

## What to Know

**Permanency is the goal, and it takes many things coming together to help this happen.** Children need connections, a sense of belonging and secure relationships. A trusting relationship with an adult in a parenting role provides the emotional security that is crucial to a child's development. A legal parent and child relationship provides the highest level of security for all children who are freed for adoption. Legal permanency can happen through reunification, change of legal custody, adoption or legal guardianship.

## What to Expect

Concurrent Planning should occur the first time there is contact with a family. Child Protective Services workers should ask families to share names and contact information for relatives, fictive kin or individuals who have a strong connection to the child or their family. The goal is to create a network of support, regardless of who is caring for the child.



# Concurrent Planning and You

Parents should be engaged in concurrent planning starting from their first contact with child welfare. The caseworker may call concurrent planning by a different name such as permanency planning, support networks and alternative caregiving.



## Concurrent Planning Team

- ▶ Parents
- ▶ Youth and Siblings
- ▶ Maternal and Paternal relatives
- ▶ Kin – people with whom family or young person has strong family-like connections
- ▶ Resource families (kinship and foster caregivers)

## Additional Supports

**Families, caregivers and caseworkers work together as a team, but children also have the right to talk about permanency and their future.** This includes where they will live if they are unable to stay with their parents. Kin can help provide supports and help in the care of the child. Support examples in addition to caregiving include:

- ▶ Community activities
- ▶ Emotional support
- ▶ School support
- ▶ Phone and virtual conversations
- ▶ Respite care and childcare
- ▶ Visitation
- ▶ Mentoring
- ▶ Transportation support
- ▶ Sibling connections

## Concurrent Planning Discussions Can Occur During:

- ▶ Concurrent planning development and staff meetings
- ▶ Case Permanency Plan development and changes
- ▶ Meetings with HHS workers
- ▶ Permanency planning
- ▶ Genograms to identify relatives and permanent connections
- ▶ Solution Focused Meetings
- ▶ Placement decisions and moves
- ▶ Home visits
- ▶ Court hearings