

Post Permanency Planning Report (366.26): If family reunification services were not offered at Disposition, or after eighteen months of services, or six months for some children under three years of age, a child cannot safely be returned to his or her parents, family reunification services are terminated and a hearing is held to consider whether to terminate parental rights and what permanent plan should be made for the child. The choices are adoption, legal guardianship, or a planned permanent loving arrangement. The only issue to be resolved is which permanent plan is in the best interests of the child. Guardianship, like adoption, can terminate the court's involvement, or the court can maintain guardianship with dependency and would then calendar six-month review dates.

CASA writes a report in which the above issue is addressed. The report also states if CASA agrees or disagrees with CWS recommendations to terminate parental rights, and the recommendation regarding the permanent plan and, when applicable, the plan of State Adoptions.

You will need the following information for the Report

- Total Hours***
- ICWA***
- Date of Detention***
- Total Out of Home Care***
- Number of Placements***
- Persons Contacted***

Recommendation: State whether you have or have not read the social worker's report. State if CASA agrees or disagrees with each recommendation included in that report. Do not give rationale here. Ask the court to include your recommendations in the case plan if they are not already included (check with your case supervisor). Support recommendations in the various sections of the report.

Assessment and Observations: Primarily deals with the child or children.

- First state CASA's date of appointment
- Give a short description of the child - physical appearance, age, interests, and anecdotes. The court looks to this section of the CASA report for your input so that they can 'meet the child' as they seldom do in person.
- Support your recommendations in this section unless they fit into the following sections.
- Include, as appropriate, the youth's statement of what they need from the system to make their dreams come true.

Health: Bring to the court's attention the status and any issues in the following topic areas that apply: Dental, CHDP, Immunizations, Counseling, Behavior Issues, Medication, and any service providers' quotes.

Education: Complete the educational advocacy checklist, identify objectives, and create an action plan if applicable for your child(ren). Also, determine who holds the educational rights and if the court needs to name a new educational representative/ educational surrogate (WIC 361.). You may not have all the above fully completed for this report. Provide as much information regarding [School, Grade, Special Education Needs, IEP, Teachers' comments] as you can.

Sibling Relationships: Does the child have siblings, and are they under the court's jurisdiction? The court should also consider the nature of the relationship between the child and his or her siblings, the appropriateness of developing or maintaining the sibling relationships pursuant to Public Social Services Section 16002, and the impact of the sibling relationships on the child's placement and planning for legal permanence.

Sibling Notice: (WIC 290.1) Has a sibling(s) 10 years of age or over and is the subject of a dependency hearing or judged to be a dependent child of the juvenile court been notified of this hearing?

Sibling Relationship: raised together, shared experiences, strong bond, appropriateness of developing or maintaining the relationship for each of the siblings.

Placement: Are the siblings placed together? Should they be placed together? Why, or why not?

Visitation: Frequency of visits, nature of visits. Does the child express desire to visit or live with sibling(s)? Is ongoing contact in the children's best emotional interest? (Get therapeutic input when possible.) Does the sibling relationship impact the permanent plans for the children?

Type and Appropriateness of Placement: Briefly describe where the child is (foster care, shelter, with relatives or parents). State if you believe this placement is appropriate or if you believe it needs to be changed. What is the update on the search for a permanent placement including child-specific adoption recruitment efforts if applicable? If you know, state again how many placements the child has had.

Prospective Adoptive Parent: (WIC 366.26(n)(1)) The juvenile court can designate a current caretaker as a prospective adoptive parent of a child if the child has lived with the caretaker for at least six months, the caretaker currently expresses a commitment to adopt the child, and the caretaker has taken at least one step to facilitate the adoptions process. Prospective Adoptive parent status prohibits the removal of a child from the home of a foster parent so designated unless properly noticed. Recommend this when appropriate.

Visitation: What is the current visitation agreement? How are visits going? How does the child react to visits? Should anything be changed?

Important individuals to the child: (WIC 16001.9, 16500.1 & 16501.1) If long-term foster care is the placement circumstance at this hearing you will need to focus your efforts on helping the child find a more permanent home where they can thrive. For children 10 years of age and over, and any younger than 10 as is developmentally

appropriate, help the child identify the individuals—other than siblings—who are important to the child, consistent with the child’s best interests, and what actions and support need to occur to maintain those relationships and explore them as permanency options. Ensure that the child has been involved in their case plan, particularly their permanency plan. Youth are to be involved in convening a team of adults that focuses on achieving and maintaining permanence.

Note: The requirement that the above information about important individuals be asked for by social workers and supported in the case plan begins once the child is over 10 and has been in out-of-home care for six months or longer.

The foundation of permanence lies in building the resilience of each child. It may be helpful to look at how services apply in five areas:

1. **Safety and Health** (Physical and psychological threats minimized, care secured, and the opportunity to learn how to avoid high risks and find dependable people),
 2. **Relationship Building** (Consistent, dependable, and nurturing network of adults and peers),
 3. **Community Engagement** (Opportunity to identify with and contribute to cultural, social, and regional communities),
 4. **Education and Development** (Effective set of home, school, and after-school activities that improve skills and increase knowledge tied to a future vision such as college or vocation), and
- Leadership** (Opportunities to see how voice, choice, and action influence outcomes).