

Student Name:

Date Completed:

# Termination of Parental Rights

## *Part A.*

Although reunification is usually our initial goal when a child comes into care, there are occasions when returning to the family is no longer a viable option for the child. When this happens, DHR's philosophy is that finding an alternate permanent, family-like placement is in the best interests of the child.

1. Ask your supervisor to pair you with a co-worker you can shadow as they take the steps necessary to terminate parental rights and free a child for adoption.
2. Review DHR policy and applicable state laws concerning a case manager's responsibility in working with a parent considering surrender (or voluntary surrender and other consent to terminate parental rights).
3. Review DHR policy and applicable state laws concerning grounds for termination of parental rights.
4. Attend the Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) staffing and observe the interaction between the worker, attorneys, and other individuals present. What did you notice?
5. If it is determined at the TPR staffing that DHR will pursue a termination of parental rights with the court, your co-worker will commence preparing a TPR packet for the court. Ask your co-worker to show you what the TPR packet consists of and ask if you can help prepare it.
6. Attend the TPR hearing with the worker and pay close attention to the evidence the judge asks for to support the request of parental termination. Answer the following questions:
  - a. What seems to be the most important factor in determining whether to terminate parental rights?
  - b. What information or advice provided by the attorneys in the TPR staffing you attended was the most help to your co-worker in making his/her case?



3. Find out which of the four placement avenues the worker is pursuing for this case.
  - a. If guardianship is the goal, meet with the guardians and the other involved DHR staff to observe the transition to a new goal.
  - b. If adoption by a foster parent is the goal, meet with the foster parent and the other involved DHR staff to observe the transition to a new goal.
  - c. If the worker will be pursuing adoption, recruitment for the child have the worker show you how to list the child in Heart Gallery. Then participate in the presentation of the child to a prospective adoptive family.
  - d. If the worker is pursuing APPLA for an older child, review the child's transition plan and discuss the plan with your supervisor to make sure you fully comprehend the development and implementation of the plan. Your supervisor can also help to ensure that the plan is meaningful and will support positive adult outcomes.
  
4. Take notes about what you learned by participating in the above step.

**I discussed the following with my supervisor regarding the Termination of Parental Rights and alternate permanent placements:**