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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 packer 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?

Part B.

Once a child is freed for adoption, the adoption worker prepares the child to proceed with an alternate permanent placement. Typically, there are two potential placement avenues a worker may pursue for a child freed for adoption: Adoption by a foster parent and Adoption by a non-identified resource.

- 1. First, meet with the adoption worker (preferably for the case you shadowed in Part A) and learn about the process of preparing the child and family, the subsidy process (determining if the child meets the criteria for Title IV-E subsidy funding due to a special need), etc.
- 2. Specifically, make sure you get the following information:
 - a. Ask the worker to explain to you what guardianship is and what the process looks like. Take notes:

b. Ask the worker to describe what occurs when the goal is the foster parent's adoption of the child. Take notes:

c. Ask the worker to explain what the process looks like when there is no previously identified guardianship or adoptive placement for the child, and how the worker processed with child-specific recruitment. Take notes:

d. Although a last resort, when reunification with the parent, adoption, guardianship, or other relevant placement are not in the best interest of the child and the child is 14 years of age or older, Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) may be an option. Ask the worker to describe this process. Take notes:

3.	Find ou	t 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 no	otes 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:					