

---

---

**ORANGE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY  
CFS OPERATIONS MANUAL**

**Effective Date:** March 14, 1994  
**Revised:** February 28, 2018

**Number:** G-0317

## **Family Reunification Status Review Reports**

---

<b>Purpose</b>	To provide guidelines for Family Reunification (FR) dependency cases and development of the Status Review Report associated with each FR Status Review hearing.
----------------	---

---

<b>Approved</b>	This policy was approved by Anne Bloxom, Director of CFS, on February 28, 2018. <i>Signature on file.</i>
-----------------	---

---

<b>Most Recent Revision</b>	<p>This revision of the Policy and Procedure (P&amp;P) incorporates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New documentation guidelines for FR Status Review Reports, as detailed in <a href="#">Attachment 1—Family Reunification Status Review Report</a></li><li>• Educating foster children of their personal rights</li><li>• Updated documentation practices for developmental screenings</li><li>• Best practice guidelines for relative search, to comply with Family Code § 7950</li><li>• Updates to consideration of the special circumstances of a parent or guardian receiving FR services, implemented through Senate Bill (SB) 1064 (2012), SB 977 (2014), and SB 68 (2015)</li><li>• Guidelines regarding involvement of a Child and Family Team (CFT) in services and placement planning</li><li>• Updated guidelines to assess suitability for reunification, including completion of background clearances regarding other adults residing in the home of the parent(s)/guardian(s)</li></ul>
-----------------------------	--

---

## Background

In accordance with WIC § 361.2, in FR dependency cases, Juvenile Court (Court) has removed physical custody of a child from the parent(s)/guardian(s), and vested custody with the Social Services Agency (SSA) for suitable placement, while the case remains under Court supervision. The child remains in out-of-home care while FR services are provided with the goal of reuniting the family.

Court may order FR services following:

- A Detention hearing (see CFS P&P [Dependency Intake \[A-0502\]](#))
- Disposition (see CFS P&P [Jurisdictional/Dispositional Hearing Report \[G-0310\]](#))
- Placement with a previously non-custodial parent See CFS P&P [Custody \[Exit\] Orders and Custody Transfers to Non-Custodial Parents \[G-0201\]](#)
- Re-detention following failed Family Maintenance (FM) supervision (see CFS P&P [Family Maintenance Six Month Review Report \[G-0315\]](#))

Per WIC § 361.5, the provision of FR services is time-limited.

Per WIC § 366, for FR dependency cases, a Status Review hearing is held every six months, while a child remains in out-of-home care, at which time Court will consider the safety of the child and determine the:

- Continuing necessity/appropriateness of out-of-home placement
  - Extent of compliance with the Court-approved Case Plan
  - Adequacy of services provided to the child and family to return the child home
  - Progress made by the parent/guardian towards addressing the causes necessitating out-of-home placement
  - Necessity/Appropriateness of limiting the right of the parent/guardian to make educational decisions (including developmental services decisions) for the child
  - Nature of sibling relationships (including efforts to maintain sibling relationships and/or facilitate visitation, as appropriate)
  - Projected date by which:
    - The child may be reunified
- Or–**
- An alternative permanent plan established

For FR dependency cases, the assigned Senior Social Worker (SSW) is responsible for:

- General case management and oversight
  - Preparation/submission of the Status Review Report and Case Plan Update for each scheduled Status Review hearing
  - Preparation of Interim reports/updates requested by Court
- 

## Definitions

**Child and Family Team (CFT):** Per WIC § 16501, a group of individuals convened by CFS and engaged through a variety of team-based processes to identify the strengths and needs of the child and his/her family, and to help achieve positive outcomes for safety, permanency, and well-being. As detailed in All County Letter [\(ACL\) 16-84](#), members of the CFT include:

- Child and parent(s), and other individuals identified by the family as being important
- Assigned SSW and Deputy Probation Officer (as applicable)
- Current caregiver
- As applicable:
  - Mental health provider (e.g., therapist, CEGU, etc.)
  - Representative from Foster Family Agency (FFA) or Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP)
  - Youth or parent partner
  - Public health provider
  - Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
  - School personnel
  - Representative of the child's tribe or Indian custodian

**Note:** In addition to formal supports, family members may invite individuals who are part of their own network of informal support to participate in the CFT, including, but not limited to: extended family, friends, neighbors, coaches, clergy, co-workers, etc.

**Date Child Entered Foster Care:** Per WIC § 361.49, a child is deemed to have entered foster care on either the date of the Jurisdictional hearing or 60 days from the date the child was initially removed from the physical custody of the parent/guardian, whichever is earlier.

**Exculpatory Evidence:** Evidence favorable to a party in the case and relevant to the issues of the case.

**Family Reunification Services:** Per WIC § 16501, activities designed to provide time-limited foster care services to prevent or remedy neglect, abuse, or exploitation, when the child cannot safely remain at home, and needs temporary foster care, while services are provided to reunite the family.

**Status Review Hearing:** Any dependency hearing held on behalf of a child in out-of-home care, with a plan of FR, pursuant to:

- WIC § 366.21(e) (Six Month Review [SMR] hearing)
  - WIC § 366.21(f) (Twelve Month Review [TMR] – Permanency hearing)
  - WIC § 366.22(a) (Eighteen Month Review [EMR] – Permanency Review hearing)
  - WIC § 366.25 (Twenty-Four Month Review – Subsequent Permanency Review hearing)
- 

## POLICY

---

### General Case Management

In accordance with California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Division 31, Chapter 300, throughout the FR phase of dependency proceedings, the assigned SSW will:

- Monitor the child’s physical and emotional well-being
- Assess the needs of the child and family
- Clarify for parent(s)/guardian(s), as applicable:
  - Agency procedures
  - Court orders
  - Arrangements between CFS and other agencies
- Monitor case plan compliance and ensure services specified in the Case Plan are offered/provided
- Gather information to assess:
  - Functioning of the parent(s)/guardian(s) as it pertains to meeting the child’s needs
  - Effectiveness of services provided

The following case management activities will be completed:

A. **Case Plan Review:**

In accordance with WIC §§ 16001.9 and 16501.1, and CDSS MPP Division 31 Chapter 200, review the Court-ordered Case Plan with Case Plan Participants, as detailed in CFS P&P [Case Plans \(D-0101\)](#).

While Case Plan Participants are provided a copy of the Case Plan for review and signature at the initial compliance contact following Case Plan approval, case plan review is intended to be an ongoing process, completed throughout dependency proceedings, to assess progress, barriers, and changing service needs of the family.

**Note:** The *Acknowledgement of Participation in Case Plan Development (F063-28-244)* differs from case plan review/signature, in that this form is used to document family engagement in case planning. This form is completed at the time of each Case Plan Update, to accompany the proposed Case Plan that will be submitted to Court at the next scheduled Status Review hearing.

**B. Compliance Contacts:**

In accordance with CDSS MPP 31-320, 31-325, and 31-330, complete required compliance contacts as specified in the Case Plan, per CFS P&P [Case Compliance Contacts and Documentation \(E-0105\)](#).

**C. Service Provision:**

In accordance with CDSS MPP 31-301, provide service/transportation referrals to Case Plan Participants, as necessary, in compliance with the Case Plan and any additional Court orders.

**Note:** Refer to CFS P&P [Transportation of Children \(D-0307\)](#) for guidelines to transport children and parents receiving child welfare services.

When appropriate, service providers may be given information relevant to the treatment needs of the client/family. See [Attachment 1—Guidelines for Release of CFS Client Information](#) of CFS P&P [Confidentiality—CFS Client Records \(F-0105\)](#).

In accordance with CDSS MPP 31-335, contact service providers to obtain monthly verbal or written reports/updates regarding:

- Client participation and progress towards treatment goals
- Service provider's professional opinion of:
  - The child's current safety and well-being
  - The client/family's current service needs
- Any Court requested information

Document verbal/written reports in the permanent record. Refer to CFS P&P [Referral and Case Filing \(E-0102\)](#) and [CWS/CMS Data Entry Standards—Service Providers—How to Search, Attach, and Record a Contact](#) for guidelines.

If unable to obtain reports/updates from service providers, document attempts in CWS/CMS contact narratives.

For guidelines on the exchange or release of client information with service providers, including the exchange of electronic information outside of the SSA Network, refer to CFS P&P [Confidentiality—CFS Client Records \(F-0105\)](#).

**D. Visitation:**

Arrange visitation between the child and those parties specified in the Case Plan. See CFS P&P [Visitation Guidelines \(D-0313\)](#) for visitation requirements.

**E. Maintaining Relationships with Important People:**

In accordance with WIC §§ 366 and 16501.1, for a child in out-of-home care, 10 years of age and older, facilitate opportunities for the child to maintain relationships with important people who have attained a level of significance to the child. See CFS P&P [Maintaining Connections with Important Persons \(D-0410\)](#).

**F. Structured Decision Making (SDM) Tools:**

Per CFS P&P [Structured Decision Making \(D-0311\)](#), complete all applicable SDM tools, at a minimum:

- Every six months, in conjunction with each Status Review hearing and/or prior to creating a Case Plan Update
- If a Trial Visit is being considered
- If safety conditions within the household change and/or a new child abuse referral is investigated

G. **Health and Education Passport (HEP):**

Per CFS P&P [Health and Education Passport \(I-0403\)](#), while a child remains in out-of-home care:

1. Verify a HEP has been provided to the child's out-of-home caregiver, upon placement and every six months.
2. During monthly contacts, obtain and document information regarding the child's educational, medical, mental health, and dental history.
3. Update *HEP Facesheet (F063-28-323)*, and submit to HEP Clerk by the clerical deadline of each Status Review Report.
4. Review recommendations for follow-up care made by the Public Health Nurse (PHN) and facilitate follow-up care in consultation with the Senior Social Services Supervisor (SSSS) and PHN.

H. **Mental Health Screening:**

Per the class action lawsuit, *Katie A., et al. v. Diana Bonta, et al.* (2011), a mental health screening will be completed on behalf of each child with an open child welfare case.

Refer to CFS P&P [Mental Health Screening and Treatment \(I-0303\)](#) for timeframes and circumstances that necessitate re-screening of the child, and for guidelines to refer the child for a mental health assessment and/or services, as necessary.

I. **Developmental Screening (Children Ages 0-5):**

Per CFS policy, and in line with All County Letter 06-54, all children in protective custody, ages 0 to 5, undergo a developmental screening. Results are documented by an Early Childhood System of Care (ECSOC) PHN, in CWS/CMS, for incorporation into the child's HEP (see CFS P&P [Jurisdictional/Dispositional Hearing Report \[G-0310\]](#)).

The assigned SSW will complete the following, as applicable (if not previously completed by Investigations staff):

- Incorporate developmental screening information contained under the Developmental Screening Tab in the-child's HEP into the Status Review Report
- Follow-up with the ECSOC PHN or the assigned PHN, when clarification is necessary

- Contact the ECSOC Information Processing Technician (IPT) to obtain the name of the assigned PHN, when the HEP does not identify the assigned PHN
- Contact child's out-of-home caregiver to follow-up with scheduled appointments and recommended actions

J. **Informing Child of Personal Rights:**

Per WIC § 16501.1, while a child remains in out-of-home care, at least once every six months (and at each placement change) inform the child of his/her personal rights specified in WIC § 16001.9, in an age and developmentally appropriate manner. Provide the following to the child and caregiver:

- *Foster Care Personal Rights (F063-25-758)*
- *You have Rights Too! (PUB 395)*
- As applicable, *Minor Consent Rights—Reproductive Health Medical Care (F063-25-760)* (see CFS P&P [Reproductive Health and Parenting \[I-0207\]](#))

The following additional forms may also be provided, as applicable to the child's placement:

- *Personal Rights in a Resource Family Home (F063-25-682)*
- *Personal Rights—Children's Residential Facilities (LIC 613B)*

**Note:** Initial advisement is provided by the Placing social worker at the time of placement, as detailed in CFS P&P [Out-of-Home Placement \(K-0208\)](#).

K. **Notification of Credit Check and Credit Resolution:**

In accordance with WIC § 10618.6, for a child in out-of-home care, 14 years of age and older:

- On an annual basis, notify the child as to whether or not a credit check indicates he/she has a credit report
- As necessary, refer the child to credit resolution services

See CFS Dispatch [Credit Reports and Credit Resolution \(D-0414-D\)](#) for further guidelines.

L. **Collaborating with CalWORKs:**

Pursuant to WIC § 11203, a family receiving CalWORKs services at the time of a child's removal from a



parent/guardian is eligible to continue receiving CalWORKs **supportive services** throughout the FR phase of dependency proceedings, upon request of the assigned SSW.

Refer to CFS P&P [CalWORKs–CFS Collaboration \(D-0502\)](#) and CFS P&P [Case Plans \(D-0101\)](#) to:

- Identify mutual client families
- Coordinate case planning with Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) staff

---

**Child and Family Team (CFT)**

WIC § 16501.1 requires that CFS convene a CFT meeting to identify supports and services needed to achieve permanency, and to enable a child to live in the least restrictive family setting that promotes normal childhood experiences.

Per WIC § 16501, activities of the CFT include providing input into:

- Development of a child and family plan (i.e., Case Plan) that is strengths-based, needs driven, and culturally relevant
- Placement decisions and services to be provided to support the child

All County Letter 16-84 provides that CFT meetings for a child in out-of-home care occur **no less than once every six months**. Best practice dictates the CFT convene as needed, to address emerging issues, coordinate interventions and safety planning, and refine the child and family plan.

**Note:** If the child receives Specialty Mental Health Services (i.e., Intensive Care Coordination, Intensive Home-Based Services, Therapeutic Foster Care), a CFT meeting must occur **at least every 90 days**. Refer to CFS P&P [Mental Health Screening and Treatment \(I-0303\)](#).

A. **Release of Information:**

In accordance with WIC § 832 and Family Code §§ 6920-6929, the CFT facilitator or assigned SSW will review the following forms with the child and parent/guardian(s) (or other authorized representative), as applicable, to obtain consent to authorize the exchange of information among the CFT:

- *Child and Family Team (CFT) Consent to Release Information (F063-25-805)*
- *Child and Family Team (CFT) Child's Limited Consent to Share Information (F063-25-804)*

Refer to CFS P&P [Mental Health Screening and Treatment \(I-0303\)](#) for guidelines regarding authorization for a mental health provider to disclose a child's mental health information to the child's planning and support team (i.e., CFT).

**B. Case Planning:**

Pursuant to WIC § 16501.1, the Case Plan will be developed with consideration to the recommendations and input of the CFT.

If there are inconsistencies between the Case Plan and CFT recommendations, the assigned SSW will document the rationale in the Status Review Report.

Refer to the "Case Plan Update" Policy section for further guidelines regarding case plan development.

Refer to CWS/CMS Data Entry Standards [Case Plan: Child and Family Team Meetings \(B0106\)](#), to incorporate CFT meetings into the Case Plan, as a Planned Client Service and a Case Management Service.

**C. Documentation:**

Information regarding CFT meetings convened will be documented by the CFT facilitator or assigned SSW, via:

1. Completion of the *Child and Family Team (CFT) Plan (F063-25-806)*.
2. Entry of a CWS/CMS Contact Narrative, per CWS/CMS Data Entry Standards [Entering Child and Family Team \(CFT\) Meeting Contacts \(E0601\)](#).
3. Incorporation into the Status Review Report, per the guidelines detailed in [Attachment 1—Family Reunification Status Review Report](#).

## Concurrent Planning

In accordance with CDSS MPP Division 31-201, to achieve legal permanency at the earliest opportunity for a child in out-of-home care (should reunification efforts fail) the assigned SSW will complete concurrent planning activities throughout the FR phase of dependency proceedings. As detailed in CFS P&P [Concurrent Planning \(D-0202\)](#), these activities include, but are not limited to:

- A. Assessing and evaluating prognosis towards reunification.
- B. Full disclosure to parent/guardian(s) regarding concurrent planning options, when the parent/guardian comes forward after the Dispositional hearing.
- C. Determining issues of parentage (as necessary).
- D. Submission of a *Permanent Planning Assessment (PPA)* (F063-18-242), as detailed in [Permanent Planning Assessment \(G-0313\)](#), **prior** to any recommendation to terminate FR services.
- E. Submission of a Permanency Planning Mediation (PPM) referral **prior** to recommending termination of FR services. See CFS P&P [Permanency Planning Mediation \(C-0603\)](#).

---

## Compliance with Court Orders

The assigned SSW will adhere to any orders issued by the Juvenile Court and inform CFS staff associated with the case of any court orders relevant to their involvement in the case.

When clarification or modification to an existing court order is necessary, the assigned SSW will take the following steps in the order listed:

- Contact the Court Officer assigned to the courtroom in which the dependency proceedings are held
- Contact the Deputy County Counsel assigned to the case
- Appear in Court to discuss, if directed to do so by County Counsel
- Complete a *Request to Change Court Order (JV-180)* and forward to a SSSS in the Court Officers Unit for submission to Juvenile Court

**Note:** When circumstances arise that pose a potential **physical risk to the child's safety**, immediately consult County Counsel.

---

**Incarcerated/  
Institutionalized/  
Detained/  
Deported  
Parents**

In accordance with WIC §§ 361.5 and 16501.1, reasonable services will be offered/provided to facilitate reunification of the child with a parent/guardian:

- Incarcerated/Institutionalized
- Detained by the United States Department of Homeland Security
- Deported to his/her country of origin

FR services will be offered/provided, unless Court finds FR services would be detrimental to the child, or orders that FR services need not be provided under a statutory exception. Refer to CFS P&P [Jurisdictional/Dispositional Hearing Report \(G-0310\)](#) for information on statutory exceptions.

Refer to CFS P&Ps [Incarcerated and Institutionalized Parents \(G-0308\)](#), [Case Plans \(D-0101\)](#), and [Notices of Hearing \(G-0507\)](#), for responsibilities of the assigned SSW, which include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying barriers to a parent/guardian's access to court-mandated services and/or ability to maintain contact with the child
- Efforts to:
  - Maintain monthly contact with the parent/guardian
  - Identify available services that comply with case plan requirements
  - Facilitate visitation
- Arranging an incarcerated parent/guardian's transportation to a Status Review hearing, when his/her production is ordered by Court

---

**Placement/  
Relative  
Search**

In accordance with Family Code § 7950 and California Rules of Court, Rules 5.715 and 5.720, and 5.722:

- If possible, foster care placements will be made in the home of a relative, unless the placement would not be in the best interest of the child
- When terminating FR services at a Permanency hearing (i.e., TMR hearing, EMR hearing, Twenty-Four Month Review hearing), Court will determine:
  - Whether diligent efforts were made to locate an appropriate relative
  - Whether each relative identified as a possible caregiver was evaluated for placement

The following will be completed by CFS staff in an effort to comply with the above requirements:

**A. Relative Search Efforts:**

As detailed in CFS P&P [Jurisdictional/Dispositional Hearing Report \(G-0310\)](#), pursuant to WIC § 309, within 30 days of a child being placed into protective custody, CFS will:

1. Complete an investigation to identify and locate all adult relatives of the child.
2. Notify each adult relative with a known address, that the child was placed into protective custody.

Refer to the Jurisdictional/Dispositional Hearing Report (JD Report) for prior efforts to identify, locate, and notify adult relatives of a child placed into protective custody.

Per best practice, if the assigned SSW becomes aware of a new relative at any point during the FR phase of dependency proceedings, the relative may be provided a *Relative Notification Letter (F063-25-627)*, *JV-285 Relative Information*, and *JV-287 Confidential Information*.

Refer to [Attachment 2—Suggested Guidelines for Relative Notification](#) of CFS P&P [Jurisdictional/Dispositional Hearing Report \(G-0310\)](#), for further guidelines.

Efforts made to locate adult relatives during the current period of review will be documented in the Status Review Report.

**B. Identifying Placement Options:**

In accordance with WIC § 361.3, the assigned SSW will attempt to identify relatives and/or Non-Relative Extended Family Members (NREFMs) for placement consideration (unless the child is already placed with a relative/NREFM).

The assigned SSW will notify the Resource Family Approval Program of relatives/NREFMs requesting placement consideration, per the guidelines detailed in the [CFS Resource Family Approval Protocol](#) when:

- A placement change is necessary
- Or–
- During the FR phase of dependency proceedings, a **relative** comes forward and requests placement

C. **Relative Placement Assessment Documentation:**

In accordance with WIC § 361.3, if a relative is assessed for placement purposes, RFA staff will document consideration of the factors specified in [Attachment 2—Relative Placement Assessment Documentation](#) for inclusion in the Status Review Report (or any subsequent court report submitted to address placement).

**Note:** Documentation of the factors specified in [Attachment 2—Relative Placement Assessment Documentation](#) is not required for NREFMs, unless ordered by Court.

**Absent Parent Search**

Pursuant to best practice and to provide reasonable services, the assigned SSW will attempt to locate parent/guardian whose whereabouts are unknown. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Inquiring from relatives/collateral contacts, as to whereabouts
- Sending a contact letter to the last known address
- Using available search resources

Refer to CFS P&P [Absent Parent Search/Relative Search \(G-0801\)](#) for information regarding search resources, and to request assistance of the Search Unit when:

- A new alleged parent is identified and his/where whereabouts are unknown
- New information is obtained regarding the possible whereabouts of an alleged parent/guardian

If the parent/guardian is located, the assigned SSW will:

- Provide a *Statement Regarding Parentage (JV-505)* to an alleged parent, per CFS P&P [Parentage \(G-0602\)](#)
- Provide a *Your Child's Health and Education (JV-225)*, per CFS P&P [Completion of the JV-225 \(I-0405\)](#)
- Submit an Ex Parte informing Court. (**Note:** Counsel may be appointed on behalf of the parent/guardian by the Court, as deemed necessary)

**Note:** A previously non-custodial parent whose whereabouts are ascertained subsequent to Disposition, **may** be considered for placement and custody of the child. See CFS P&P [Custody \(Exit\) Orders and Custody Transfers to Non-Custodial Parents \(G-0201\)](#).

---

**Educational Rights of the Parent/Guardian**

In accordance with WIC § 361, the assigned SSW will:

- Ensure a responsible adult is available and involved in making decisions for a child's education (and developmental services)
- As necessary, request Court limit the right of the parent/guardian to make educational or developmental services decisions for the child and appoint an educational representative

If rights of the parent/guardian were previously limited, the Status Review Report will address the parent/guardian's continued inability or unwillingness to make educational decisions or developmental services decisions for the child.

Refer to CFS P&P [Limiting Educational Rights \(I-0103\)](#) for further guidelines.

---

**Writing the Status Review Report**

Pursuant to WIC §§ 366, 366.1, 366.21, 366.22, and 366.25, and California Rules of Court, Rule 5.708, the assigned SSW will prepare a Status Review Report for each Status Review hearing calendared, in accordance with the guidelines and format detailed in [Attachment 1—Family Reunification Status Review Report](#).

The court report will incorporate pertinent, accurate, and objective information, including exculpatory evidence obtained over the current period of review. Information incorporated into the court report will be consistent with information documented in the child's Permanent Record. Objectivity and accuracy on behalf of the assigned SSW is paramount. This ensures a factual representation for Court to make a determination regarding the status and progress of the family, and lends credibility to the assigned SSW's recommendations.

Each Status Review Report will be written in complete, concise sentences. Documentation of interviews/correspondence with collateral contacts/service providers will include:

- Date on which interview/correspondence was completed
- Method by which interview/correspondence was conducted (e.g., in-person, phone, letter, etc.)
- Notation of language (other than English) or interpreter services used
- Full name, title, and agency affiliation (as applicable)
- Contact information unless there is a compelling reason to keep the information confidential

**Note:** Attempts to obtain required information not available for inclusion in the Status Review Report will be documented.

**Court  
Recommendation  
Considerations**

A. **Return/Reunification:**  
Per WIC §§ 366.21, 366.22, and 366.25, at each FR Status Review hearing it is presumed the child will return to the physical custody of the parent(s)/guardian(s), unless it can be demonstrated by a preponderance of evidence, that return would create a substantial risk of detriment to the safety, protection, or physical or emotional well-being of the child.

**Note:** The social worker has the burden of establishing this detriment.

B. **Timeframe for Provision of FR Services:**  
Per WIC § 361.5, the provision of FR services to a parent/guardian is time-limited, based upon the age of the child at the time of initial removal from the physical custody of the parent/guardian. Unless a statutory exception pursuant to WIC § 361.5(a) applies, a recommendation for the provision of FR services will not exceed those timeframes specified below:

- **Timeframe for Reunification—Child Over 3:**  
FR services will be provided beginning with the Dispositional hearing, and ending 12 months from the date the child entered foster care
- **Timeframe for Reunification—Child Under 3:**  
FR services will be provided beginning with the Dispositional hearing and ending with the Six Month Review hearing, **but not longer than** 12 months from the date the child entered foster care, unless the child is returned home

**Note:** If a member of a sibling group was under three years of age on the date of initial removal, the timeframe for provision of FR services to some or all of the sibling group



may be limited, per the above guidelines. Refer to the “Terminating FR Services for Sibling Groups” Policy section for further guidelines.

An extension of FR services beyond the statutory guidelines detailed above may only be recommended if there is a **substantial probability** the child will be returned to the physical custody of the parent(s)/legal guardian(s), and safely maintained in the home, within the extended time period. Additional factors need to be considered, as detailed in the attachments referenced in “Recommendations by Hearing Type.”

C. **Special Circumstances of Parent/Guardian:**

Per WIC §§ 361.5, 366.21, and 366.22, when considering a recommendation to return the child to the physical custody of a parent/guardian, **or** extend FR services beyond the timeframes outlined above, the assigned SSW will take into consideration the special circumstances of a parent/guardian:

- Incarcerated/institutionalized
- In a court-ordered residential substance abuse treatment program
- Arrested and issued an immigration hold
- Detained by the United States Department of Homeland Security
- Deported to his/her country of origin

This includes, but is not limited to, consideration of barriers to the parent/guardian’s access to court-mandated services and ability to maintain contact with the child.

Per WIC §§ 366.21 and 366.22, consideration will also be given to the particular barriers of a parent who was a minor or non-minor dependent (NMD) at the time of the initial (Dispositional) hearing.

Per WIC §§ 366.21, 366.22, and 366.25, the assigned SSW will also consider whether, as applicable, the child can be returned to the custody of a parent enrolled in a certified substance abuse treatment facility that allows a dependent child to reside with the parent.

D. **Recommendations by Hearing Type:**

Each Status Review hearing held during the FR phase of dependency proceedings is governed by specific statutes which impact the recommendations available:

- **Six Month Review (SMR) hearing:**  
Per WIC § 366.21, the SMR hearing will occur six months from the Dispositional hearing, **but not later than 12 months** from the date the child entered foster care. For recommendations specific to this hearing, refer to [Attachment 3—Six Month Review Hearing Recommendations](#)
- **Twelve Month Review (TMR) hearing:**  
Per WIC § 366.21, the TMR hearing (as applicable) will occur **no later than 12 months** from the date the child entered foster care. For recommendations specific to this hearing, refer to [Attachment 4—Twelve Month Review Hearing Recommendations](#). (**Note:** In the event a prolonged Dispositional hearing would result in the SMR hearing occurring subsequent to the TMR hearing, the Court may combine the hearings, and/or short-set the TMR hearing)
- **Eighteen Month Review (EMR) hearing:**  
Per WIC § 366.22, the EMR hearing (as applicable) will occur **within 18 months** of the date the child was originally removed from the physical custody of his/her parent/guardian. For recommendations specific to this hearing, refer to [Attachment 5—Eighteen Month Review Hearing Recommendations](#)
- **Twenty-Four Month Review hearing:**  
Per WIC § 366.25, the Twenty-Four Month Review hearing (as applicable) will occur **within 24 months** of the date the child was originally removed from the physical custody of his/her parent/guardian. For recommendations specific to this hearing refer to [Attachment 6—Twenty Four Month Review Hearing Recommendations](#)

---

**Terminating  
FR Services  
for Sibling  
Groups**

Per WIC § 366.21, in an effort to place/maintain siblings together in a permanent home, if a recommendation will be made at a SMR hearing to terminate FR services and schedule a WIC § 366.26 Selection and Implementation hearing for some or all members of a sibling group, address the following sibling factors in the Six Month Review Report:

- Whether the sibling group was removed from the physical custody of the parent/guardian(s) as a group
  - Closeness and strength of the sibling bond
  - Ages of the siblings
  - Appropriateness of maintaining the sibling group together
  - Detriment to each child if sibling ties are not maintained
  - Likelihood of finding a permanent home for the sibling group, including whether the sibling group:
    - Is currently placed together in a pre-adoptive home
- Or–**
- Has a concurrent plan goal of legal permanency in the same home
  - Wishes of each child (provided age and physical/emotional condition permits a meaningful response)
  - Best interests of each child in the sibling group

**Case Plan Update**

The assigned SSW will develop a Case Plan Update for submission to Court, per the guidelines and timeframes detailed in CFS P&P [Case Plans \(D-0101\)](#):

In conjunction with each Status Review hearing, **unless** the recommendation will be to terminate dependency proceedings.

- A. If the Case Plan Update reflects changes to existing Case Plan goals or objectives, document adequate justification for the requested changes in the Status Review Report.
- B. If current case plan objectives no longer meet the service needs of the child and family.

If a Case Plan Update is required prior to a Status Review hearing, consult SSSS and County Counsel regarding submission of a *Request to Change Court Order (JV-180)* or Ex Parte request.

Refer to the “Child and Family Team (CFT)” Policy section for additional guidelines to obtain input from the CFT, during case plan development.

**Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)**

Pursuant to CDSS MPP 31-236, a TILP will be completed or updated (as applicable) for any child 15½ years of age and older in out-of-home care. The TILP will be updated by the assigned SSW in conjunction with each Status Review hearing.

The child's TILP goals will be regularly reviewed with the child and incorporated into the Case Plan per the guidelines detailed in CFS P&P [Independent Living Program \(ILP\) Services \(D-0504\)](#).

---

**Timeframe for Completion/ Submission of Court Report** The Status Review Report and any accompanying Case Plan Update prepared for a Status Review hearing will be e-filed with the Juvenile Court, in accordance with WIC § 366.21 and California Rules of Court, Rule 5.708.

Refer to the "Juvenile Court Clerical and Filing Deadlines" guide for **clerical** and **filing** deadlines, which vary based on courtroom assignment.

For guidelines regarding e-filing, refer to CFS P&P [Electronic Signing and Filing of Court Reports \(B-0217\)](#).

**Note:** If applicable, refer to CFS P&P [Custody \(Exit\) Orders and Custody Transfers to Non-Custodial Parents \(G-0201\)](#) for preparation and processing of proposed **Custody/Exit orders**.

---

**Notice of Hearing** Pursuant to WIC § 293, notice of each Status Review hearing will be provided to applicable parties not earlier than **30 days**, nor later than **15 days** prior to the scheduled hearing.

Refer to CFS P&P [Notices of Hearing \(G-0507\)](#) for guidelines.

For further information regarding provision of notice, refer to:

- CFS P&P [Absent Parent Search/Relative Search \(G-0801\)](#)
  - CFS P&P [Indian Child Welfare Act \(G-0309\)](#)
  - CFS P&P [Incarcerated and Institutionalized Parents \(G-0308\)](#)
- 

**Provision of Court Report to Involved Parties** Pursuant to WIC § 366.05, a copy of the Status Review Report and Case Plan Update will be provided to applicable parties no later than **10 calendar days** in advance of the scheduled hearing. Refer to CFS P&P [Notices of Hearing \(G-0507\)](#) for guidelines.

---

**Addendum Reports** Following submission of the Status Review Report, an Addendum Report will be submitted by the assigned SSW when:

- New information pertinent to the case is obtained, which was not previously documented
  - The recommendation changes
  - The Case Plan Update previously submitted is revised prior to the scheduled hearing
  - The Status Review hearing is continued:
    - A minimum of **seven calendar days**
- And/Or–**
- Court requests additional information be provided

Addendums may be submitted to the Court Typist for filing with Court any time prior to the scheduled hearing.

**Other Court Reports**

Per WIC § 365, if a non-statutory review hearing is calendared, the assigned SSW will prepare a court report specific to that hearing (i.e., Interim Report).

Refer to the “Juvenile Court Clerical and Filing Deadlines” guide for **clerical** and **filing** deadlines.

**Advisement of Child’s Rights at Court**

In accordance with WIC §§ 349 and 399, the assigned SSW will inform any child (capable of understanding the concept) who is the subject of dependency proceedings of his/her right to:

- Be present and participate in any dependency hearing regarding his/her case
- Make a statement to Court, including an opinion about placement (if placement decisions are being considered)

Documentation of the above advisement and statements made by the child will be included in the Status Review Report.

For additional information regarding advisement of the child’s rights at Court and facilitating transportation to hearings, refer to CFS P&P [Child’s Rights at Court \(G-0303\)](#).

**Availability for Court Dates**

The assigned SSW and SSSS will be available to respond to Court for each Status Review hearing or continuance, as follows:

- A. The SSW will immediately return telephone call received from the courtroom.

- B. The SSW will make an in-person response to Court at the time specified by the Court, when the SSW's presence is requested, regardless of flex day.
- C. Upon receipt of a personal appearance subpoena, the SSW will follow the guidelines detailed in CFS P&P [Confidentiality—CFS Client Records \(F-0105\)](#).
- D. The assigned SSSS, or designee, will be available to respond to Court if the assigned SSW is unable to do so.

**Note:** The SSW will inform the assigned SSSS in advance when unavailable for the scheduled hearing.

---

**Trial Visit  
(60-Day Trial  
Visit)**

A Trial Visit is an extended visit between a child in out-of-home care and the parent(s)/guardian(s) with the anticipation of the child being reunified under FM supervision. During a Trial Visit, the family remains under an FR Case Plan.

In accordance with the "Child and Family Team (CFT)" Policy section, a CFT meeting will be convened when considering a trial visit, to discuss the proposed change in placement circumstances and safety planning.

The timeframe for a Trial Visits may vary and will not exceed 60 calendar days unless Court adopts a recommendation to continue the Trial Visit beyond 60 calendar days.

If Court consent to initiate a Trial Visit is required (per Bench Officer's preference), the assigned SSW will request authorization:

- At a scheduled Status Review or Interim Review hearing. (**Note:** If recommending a Trial Visit at a Status Review hearing, request the hearing be continued to coincide with the anticipated end-date of the Trial Visit)

**–Or–**

- Via Ex Parte

Refer to CFS P&P [Out-of-Home Placement \(K-0208\)](#) for requirements to notify the child's attorney and child's sibling's attorney (as applicable) of a Trial Visit, in accordance with WIC § 16010.6.

**Note:** To prevent foster care overpayment, when a Trial Visit begins, end the previous placement (see [CWS/CMS Data Entry Standards—Trial Visits and Conditional Release \[CRISP\]](#) and

complete a *Placement Information Change (PIC) Notice (F063-28-301)* per CFS P&P [Placement Change Notification \(K-0209\)](#).

Once a Trial Visit has been initiated, the assigned SSW will, as case circumstances (i.e., contentious case) or Court preferences dictate, submit an Ex Parte informing the Court of the Trial Visit.

Following conclusion of a Trial Visit, Court will determine the appropriateness of continuing FR services **or** returning custody of the child to the parent(s)/guardian(s) under FM supervision.

If no Status Review hearing is scheduled to be held in conjunction with the conclusion of the Trial Visit, request Court to calendar an Interim Review hearing).

A. **Successful Trial Visit:**

If the Trial Visit was successful, and the protective needs of the child continue to be met, the assigned SSW will, at the subsequent hearing, recommend:

- The child be returned to the custody of the parent(s)/guardian(s) under FM supervision

**–And–**

- A Case Plan with a goal of FM. (Per CFS P&P [Family Maintenance Six Month Review Report \[G-0315\]](#), Court may order Enhancement services for a non-custodial parent)

**Note:** The placement episode end-date and date of change to the CWS/CMS service component (see [CWS/CMS Data Entry Standards—Case Service Component Instructions](#)) must be consistent with the date Court orders FM supervision.

B. **Unsuccessful Trial Visit:**

During the Trial Visit, if the child's protective needs are not met (e.g., child's health/safety jeopardized due to action/inaction of the parent/guardian), the assigned SSW will **immediately:**

1. End the Trial Visit (upon consultation with the assigned SSSS and, as necessary, County Counsel).
2. Provide notification of the failed Trial Visit to:
  - Child's attorney and child's sibling's attorney (as applicable) (via phone and facsimile on the

*Attorney Notice of Placement Change [F063-25-572])*

- Court (via Ex Parte)

3. Continue to provide services as outlined in the Court-approved Case Plan.

---

**Reunification  
Reassessment  
Clearances**

A. **Parent/Guardian:**

Pursuant to WIC Sections §§ 366.21, 366.22, 366.25, and 16504.5, the assigned SSW will request the parent(s)/guardian(s) complete live scan fingerprinting when assessing suitability for a:

- Trial Visit

**-Or-**

- Recommendation to reunify the family under FM supervision

Refer to CFS P&P [Live Scan Fingerprinting \(B-0115\)](#) for guidelines to obtain and evaluate the criminal history of the parent(s)/guardian(s).

B. **Other Adults in the Home:**

In assessing suitability for reunification, the assigned SSW will consider the willingness and ability of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to protect the child from other adults residing in the home. The assigned SSW will inquire as to the anticipated nature and frequency of contact, if any, that the child may have with other adults in the home.

Due to a lack of statutory authority, the assigned SSW will not request Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) through live scan fingerprinting or the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) regarding any other adult residing in the home of a parent(s)/guardian(s).

**Note:** The prohibited use of live scan fingerprinting and CLETS also applies to a parent/guardian's selection of a babysitter.

Refer to [Attachment 7—Parties Subject to Live Scan Clearances](#) of CFS P&P [Live Scan Fingerprinting \(B-0115\)](#) for parties subject to Live Scan.



Per CFS Policy, the assigned SSW will obtain background clearance information regarding other adults residing in the home of the parent(s)/guardian(s):

1. Per the guidelines detailed in the “CORI Not Authorized—Criminal Background Clearances” Policy section of CFS P&P [Live Scan Fingerprinting \(B-0115\)](#).
2. By requesting authorization from the individual (i.e., other adult) to complete CWS/CMS clearances for prior child abuse and neglect. The individual’s response to the request will be documented in the permanent record.

The assigned SSW will notify the parent(s)/guardian(s):

- Of any adult in the home who refuses to consent to CWS/CMS clearances

**–And/Or–**

- If clearance information obtained indicates another adult residing in the home of the parent(s)/guardian(s) would pose a risk to the child should reunification occur
  - **Do not disclose any** confidential information, including CWS/CMS history, to the parent(s)/guardian(s)
  - Criminal background information obtained from **publicly** available resources may be shared
  - CWS/CMS results will **not** be shared; if applicable, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will be informed that a concern exists regarding “another adult” in the home who may pose a risk to the child

If the parent/guardian allows an individual who may pose a risk to the child to remain in the home, the assigned SSW will notify Court.

---

## REFERENCES

---

### Attachments and CWS/CMS Data Entry Standards

Hyperlinks are provided below to access attachments to this P&P and any CWS/CMS Data Entry Standards that are referenced.

- [Attachment 1—Family Reunification Status Review Report](#)
- [Attachment 2—Relative Placement Assessment Documentation](#)
- [Attachment 3—Six Month Review Hearing Recommendations](#)
- [Attachment 4—Twelve Month Review Hearing Recommendations](#)
- [Attachment 5—Eighteen Month Review Hearing Recommendations](#)
- [Attachment 6—Twenty Four Month Review Hearing Recommendations](#)
- [Attachment 7—Status/Periodic Review Hearing Checklist](#)
- [CWS/CMS Data Entry Standards—Case Service Component Instructions](#)
- CWS/CMS Data Entry Standards [Case Plan: Child and Family Team Meetings \(B0106\)](#)
- CWS/CMS Data Entry Standards [Entering Child and Family Team \(CFT\) Meeting Contacts \(E0601\)](#)
- [CWS/CMS Data Entry Standards—Service Providers—Search, Attach, and Record a Contact](#)
- [CWS/CMS Data Entry Standards—Trial Visits and Conditional Release \(CRISP\)](#)
- [CWS/CMS Data Entry Standards—Writing a Court Report Using CWS/CMS](#)
- [CWS/CMS Case Plan Update Process Map 04-2017](#)

---

### Hyperlinks

Users accessing this document by computer may create a direct connection to the following references by clicking on the link provided.

- CFS P&P [Absent Parent Search/Relative Search \(G-0801\)](#)
- CFS P&P [CalWORKs—CFS Collaboration \(D-0502\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Case Compliance Contacts and Documentation \(E-0105\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Case Plans \(D-0101\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Child's Rights at Court \(G-0303\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Clearances—Relative Assessment \(K-0101\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Concurrent Planning \(D-0202\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Confidentiality—CFS Client Records \(F-0105\)](#)

- CFS P&P [Completion of the JV-225 \(I-0405\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Courtesy Supervision \(K-0501\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Custody \(Exit\) Orders and Custody Transfers to Non-Custodial Parents \(G-0201\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Dependency Intake \(A-0502\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Family Maintenance Six Month Review Report \(G-0315\)](#)
- CFS PDU Dispatch [Food Stamp Applications for Transitioning Youth \(D-0512-D\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Health and Education Passport \(I-0403\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Maintaining Connections with Important Persons \(D-0410\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Incarcerated and Institutionalized Parents \(G-0308\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Independent Living Program \(ILP\) Services \(D-0504\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Indian Child Welfare Act \(G-0309\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children \(ICPC\) \(K-0502\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Jurisdictional/Dispositional Hearing Report \(G-0310\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Limiting Educational Rights \(I-0103\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Live Scan Fingerprinting \(B-0115\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Notices of Hearing \(G-0507\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Out-of-Home Placement \(K-0208\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Parentage \(G-0602\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Permanent Planning Assessment \(G-0313\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Placement Change Notification \(K-0209\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Psychotropic Medication: Dependent Child \(I-0306\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Referral and Case Filing \(E-0102\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Relative/NREFM Placement Assessments \(K-0105\)](#)
- CFS P&P [School Placement and Transfer \(I-0102\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Sensitive/Highly Sensitive Referrals and Cases \(F-0107\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Structured Decision Making \(D-0311\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Transportation of Children \(D-0307\)](#)
- CFS P&P [Visitation Guidelines \(D-0313\)](#)
- CFS Dispatch [Credit Reports and Credit Resolution \(D-0414-D\)](#)
- [Structured Decision Making Policies and Procedures Manual](#)

---

**Other Sources** Other printed references include the following:

- Juvenile Court Clerical and Filing Deadlines
- 

## FORMS

---

**Online Forms** Forms listed below may be printed out and completed, or completed online, and may be accessed by clicking on the link provided.

<b>Form Name</b>	<b>Form Number</b>
<a href="#">Attorney Notice of Placement Change</a>	F063-25-572
<a href="#">Acknowledgement of Participation in Case Plan Development</a>	F063-28-244
<a href="#">Acknowledgement of Participation in Case Plan Development (Spanish)</a>	F063-28-244 Sp
<a href="#">Child and Family Team (CFT) Plan</a>	F063-25-806
<a href="#">ILP Services—Proof of Wardship Letter</a>	F063-25-617
<a href="#">Notice of Hearing Worksheet</a>	F063-28-04
<a href="#">Permanent Planning Assessment</a>	F063-18-242
<a href="#">Statement Regarding Parentage</a>	JV-505
<a href="#">Statement Regarding Parentage (Spanish)</a>	JV-505 S
<a href="#">Request to Change Court Order</a>	JV-180
<a href="#">Personal Rights—Children’s Residential Facilities</a>	LIC 613B
<a href="#">Foster Care Personal Rights</a>	F063-25-758
<a href="#">Personal Rights in a Resource Family Home</a>	F063-25-682
<a href="#">Minor Consent Rights—Reproductive Health Medical Care</a>	F063-25-760

---

**Hard Copy Forms** Forms that may be completed in hard copy (including multi-copy NCR forms) are listed below. ***For reference purposes only***, links are provided to view these hard copy forms, where available.

<b>Form Name</b>	<b>Form Number</b>
<a href="#">Authorization for Release of Information</a>	F063-25-228
<a href="#">Authorization for Release of Information</a>	F063-25-228 Sp
<a href="#">Application for Petition</a>	F063-28-43

---

**CWS/CMS  
Forms**

Forms that may **only** be obtained in CWS/CMS are listed below. **For reference purposes only**, links are provided to view these CWS/CMS forms, where available.

<b>Form Name</b>	<b>Form Number</b>
<a href="#">Child Transfer Summary</a>	F063-28-319R
Early Childhood Zero Through Five	None
<a href="#">HEP Facesheet</a>	F063-28-323

---

**Brochures**

Brochures to distribute in conjunction with this policy may include:

<b>Brochure Name</b>	<b>Brochure Number</b>
<a href="#">What happens if your child is taken from your home?</a>	JV-050-INFO
<a href="#">What happens if your child is taken from your home?</a> Spanish	JV-050-INFO S
<a href="#">What happens if your child is taken from your home?</a> (Vietnamese)	JV-050-INFO V
"What happens if your child is taken from your home?" (other languages) available at the State website:  <a href="#">Chinese (JV-050-INFO C)</a> ; <a href="#">Cambodian (JV-050-INFO CM)</a> ; <a href="#">Hmong (JV-050-INFO H)</a> ; <a href="#">Korean (JV-050-INFO K)</a> ; <a href="#">Russian (JV-050-INFO R)</a>	
<a href="#">You have Rights Too!</a>	PUB 395

---

**LEGAL MANDATES**

---

[Welfare and Institutions Code Section \(§\) 293](#) and [California Rules of Court, Rule 5.708](#) detail requirements for noticing parties of Status Review hearings held pursuant to WIC §§ 366.21, 366.22, and 366.25.

[Welfare and Institutions Code § 302](#) provides that, unless parental rights have been terminated, parents be notified of all dependency proceedings and provided a copy of each court report.

Welfare and Institutions Code §§ [349](#) and [399](#) detail a child's right to be present and participate in dependency hearings and to make a statement to Court when placement decisions are being considered.

[Welfare and Institutions Code § 361](#) and [California Rules of Court, Rule 5.650](#) describe Court's ability to limit a parent's educational or developmental services decision-making rights and the process to appoint an educational representative on behalf of the child.

[Welfare and Institutions Code § 361.3](#) outlines the factors that must be assessed in consideration of relative placement, and the need to document consideration of these factors for Court.

[Welfare and Institutions Code § 361.49](#) defines when a child is deemed to have entered foster care.

[Welfare and Institutions Code § 361.5\(a\)](#) details the timeframe for provision, and requirements for extension of FR services, and special circumstances of the parent/guardian to be taken into account when considering an extension.

[Welfare and Institutions Code § 365](#) details the social worker's responsibility to provide a report for a non-statutory review hearing.

[Welfare and Institutions Code § 366](#) provides that the status of every dependent child in out-of-home care be reviewed by Court no less frequently than once every six months, and details the findings to be considered.

[Welfare and Institutions Code § 366.05](#) details the timeframe within which the Status Review Report is provided to applicable parties.

[Welfare and Institutions Code § 366.1](#) and [California Rules of Court, Rule 5.708](#) detail the contents of the court report submitted at each Status Review hearing, on behalf of a child in out-of-home care.

[Welfare and Institutions Code § 366.21](#) details conduct of the Six Month Review hearing and Twelve Month Review (Permanency) hearing, and applicable Court findings/orders.

[Welfare and Institutions Code § 366.215](#) details the special circumstances of the parent/guardian to be taken into account at a Six Month Review hearing, when considering whether to schedule a WIC § 366.26 Selection and Implementation hearing.

[Welfare and Institutions Code § 366.22](#) details conduct of the Eighteen Month Review (Permanency Review) hearing, and applicable Court findings/orders.

[Welfare and Institutions Code § 366.25](#) details conduct of the Twenty-Four Month Review (Subsequent Permanency Review) hearing, and applicable Court findings/orders.

[Welfare and Institutions Code § 10618.6](#) requires every foster youth 14 years of age and older to receive a free copy of their credit report and to receive assistance interpreting the credit report and resolving any inaccuracies.

[Welfare and Institutions Code §16501](#) defines FR services and the Child and Family Team (CFT).

[Welfare and Institutions Code § 16501.1](#) and [California Department of Social Services \(CDSS\) Manual of Policies and Procedures \(MPP\) Division 31 Chapter 31-200](#) detail case plan development, content, timeframes, and review.

[Welfare and Institutions Code § 16501.1](#) requires that a child's SSW inform a child in out-of-home placement of his/her personal rights, at least once every six months.

[Welfare and Institutions Code § 16507](#) details circumstances under which time-limited FR services may be provided and/or extended.

[Family Code § 7950](#) details placement considerations, and the requirement that diligent efforts be made to locate appropriate relatives for placement.

[CDSS MPP Division 31 Chapter 31-300](#) details social worker responsibilities for the provision of services, contacts, and case management.

[California Rules of the Court, Rule 5.651](#) provides that at every Status Review hearing, specific information regarding the child be addressed to ensure his/her educational, physical, mental health, and developmental needs are being met.

[California Rules of Court, Rule 5.708](#) details general requirements of Status Review hearings, including timeframes for submission of the Status Review Report.

California Rules of the Court, Rules [5.710](#), [5.715](#), [5.720](#), and [5.722](#) detail the conduct of Status Review hearings held during the FR phase of dependency proceedings and applicable Court findings/orders.

[All County Letter 06-54](#) details strategies for policy implementation, as it relates to referring children under three years of age who are involved in a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect, to early intervention services.

[All County Letter 16-84](#) provides an overview of the CFT model.

[All County Information Notice I-24-17](#) details special circumstances of a parent/guardian that Court will consider during FR Status Review hearings, which may pose barriers to accessing court-mandated services and/or an ability to maintain contact with the child.

*Katie A., et al. v. Diana Bonta, et al.* (2011), a class action lawsuit, resulting in settlement, which implemented changes to the mental health and other supportive services available to children and youth in foster care.

---

## **REVISION HISTORY**

---

Since the Effective Date of this P&P, and prior to the Current Revision Date, the following revisions of this P&P were published:

June 10, 2010  
March 10, 2011