QUESTIONS FOR PERMANENCY HEARING (Family Services Specialist)

**GOAL IS REUNIFICATION – Pre-Dispositional**

1. Name
2. How employed
3. Official Title at DSS
4. How long with DSS
5. Are you the worker currently assigned to the case involving the \_\_\_\_ child/ren?
6. How long has the case been assigned to you?
7. What was the date the children were removed?
8. Have they been removed from the home before? How many times?
9. Where are the children placed?
10. Is that placement appropriate in your opinion?
11. Why?
12. What efforts have been made by the Department to place the children in the least restrictive setting?
13. Have there been changes in the children’s placements since they first came into care?
14. What changes?
15. How were the parents and parties notified of the change in placement?
16. How are the children doing in their current placement?
17. What is the feedback you are getting from the child(ren’s) current caretaker concerning how the child(ren) is managing in their home?
18. Was a Protective Capacities Assessment developed with the parent/caretaker? Who was the PCA created for? (each parent individually or as a family unit) Was the PCA signed? When?
19. Did you meet with the mother/father to discuss the impending danger threats that were identified at the completion of the Initial Family Assessment?
20. Were those impending danger threats reflected in the PCA?
21. What impending danger threats continue to exist that prevent the children from returning home?
22. Has Conditions for Return been established for these children?
23. What if any is the progress made by the parent(s) towards meeting the Conditions for Return?
24. What Conditions for Return still need to be met?
25. Once the Conditions for Return are met, will an In-home Safety plan be developed? If so, what safety services will be will be needed?
26. How would returning today be injurious to the children’s welfare?
27. What is the child’s permanent plan?
28. What progress is being made toward that permanent plan?
29. What are the barriers preventing reaching that permanent plan at this time?
30. What efforts are being made towards that permanent plan?
31. What is the child’s concurrent plan?
32. What is the status of the children’s physical health? Mental health? And education?
33. Are the siblings separated? What efforts are being made to maintain the sibling connection?
34. If the children are not placed in kinship care: What needs to occur for family members to be considered for placement?
35. What is being done to maintain the child’s cultural connections?
36. What efforts are being made at this time for relative searches?
37. (Non-resident parents) what efforts are being made to engage the out of state parent?
38. (Child over 16) what Independent Living services are being provided?

Anticipate questions as to “how long” do you think it will take to get the children home.

If sobriety is not the only issue be prepared to articulate how the children are in impending danger if returned when parent has completed treatment, been sober for a month, has a job, is on 24/7, is in aftercare…etc… if it appears that the parent is doing everything we’ve asked, you have to be able to identify how the child is still at risk of harm.

I want to avoid the situation where DSS is being ORDERED to return children the day of the hearing because we were unable to articulate all that is left to do.

QUESTIONS FOR PERMANENCY HEARING (Family Services Specialist)

**Child in Trial Reunification – Pre-Dispositional**

1. Name
2. How employed
3. Official Title at DSS
4. How long with DSS
5. Are you the worker currently assigned to the case involving the \_\_\_\_ child/ren?
6. How long has the case been assigned to you?
7. What was the date the child(ren) were originally removed?
8. What was the date the child(ren) were returned to their parent/caretaker for trial reunification?
9. Please describe the intensity or status of the in-home safety plan.
10. Since the last court hearing have there been any additional danger threats identified? If so what are they?
11. Is trial reunification still appropriate in your opinion?
12. Why?
13. What is the feedback you are getting from the child(ren’s) parent/caretaker concerning how the child(ren) is managing in their home?
14. Are the parents/caretaker continuing to work towards their outcomes on the Protective Capacity Assessment?
15. What is the parent’s progress towards reaching their outcomes?
16. What is the status of the children’s physical health? Mental health? And education?
17. (Non-resident parents) what efforts are being made to engage the out of state parent?
18. (Child over 16) what Independent Living services are being provided?

Anticipate questions as to “how long” do you think it will take for reunification and case dismissal.

QUESTIONS FOR PERMANENCY HEARING (Family Services Specialist)

**Termination of Parental Rights – Final Dispositional Hearing**

Ask all of the questions pertaining to the Final Dispositional Hearing and assure in addition the following are asked – these are specific to permanency and meeting the needs of the children.

1. What was the date the children were removed?
2. Have they been removed from the home before? How many times?
3. Where are the children placed?
4. Is that placement appropriate in your opinion?
5. Why?
6. What efforts have been made by the Department to place the children in the least restrictive setting?
7. Have there been changes in the children’s placements since they first came into care?
8. What changes?
9. How were the parents and parties notified of the change in placement?
10. How are the children doing in their current placement?
11. What is the feedback you are getting from the child(ren’s) current caretaker concerning how the child(ren) is managing in their home?
12. What is the status of the children’s physical health? Mental health? And education?
13. Are the siblings separated? What efforts are being made to maintain the sibling connection?
14. If the children are not placed in kinship care: What needs to occur for family members to be considered for placement?
15. What is being done to maintain the child’s cultural connections?
16. What efforts are being made at this time for relative searches?
17. (Child over 16) what Independent Living services are being provided?

QUESTIONS FOR PERMANENCY HEARING (Family Services Specialist)

**Post Dispositional**

**Adoptive Custody** or **APPLA**

1. Name
2. How employed
3. Official Title at DSS
4. How long with DSS
5. Are you the worker currently assigned to the case involving the \_\_\_\_ child/ren?
6. How long has the case been assigned to you?
7. What was the date the children were removed?
8. Have they been removed from the home before? How many times?
9. Where are the children placed?
10. Is that placement appropriate in your opinion?
11. Why?
12. What efforts have been made by the Department to place the children in the least restrictive setting?
13. Have there been changes in the children’s placements since they first came into care?
14. What changes?
15. How are the children doing in their current placement?
16. What is the feedback you are getting from the child(ren’s) current caretaker concerning how the child(ren) is managing in their home?
17. What is the permanency plan for the child(ren)?
18. What progress is being made toward that permanent plan?
19. What are the barriers preventing reaching that permanent plan at this time? (is one of the barriers an appeal?)
20. What efforts are being made towards that permanent plan?
21. What is the status of the children’s physical health? Mental health? And education?
22. Are the siblings separated? What efforts are being made to maintain the sibling connection?
23. If the children are not placed in kinship care: What needs to occur for family members to be considered for placement?
24. What is being done to maintain the child’s cultural connections?
25. What efforts are being made at this time for relative searches?
26. (Child over 16) what Independent Living services are being provided?