

# Concurrent Planning

## Background Notes

Separation of children from their birth families is a serious, traumatic experience for both children and parents. The state of Oregon takes foster/relative placements very seriously. In order to facilitate and streamline the movement of children to permanent homes, Oregon expects cases to use "concurrent planning". This method of casework actually involves the development of two separate plans. The first goal is almost always to work toward returning the child to a safe parent. A concurrent plan could be adoption, guardianship, or other another planned permanent living arrangement (APPLA) other than return to a parent. Working the two plans concurrently, or at the same time, improves the chances of children having permanent homes in a timely fashion. It takes more time to see if parents can ameliorate the initial concerns and then developing a back up plan if the primary goal of is not successful. One of the primary tasks in developing a concurrent plan is the identification and evaluation of a permanent resource. Contacting relatives and involving them in long term planning for the children is central to this task.

## Tasks / Assignments:

- Read the policy, [Legal Permanency, Concurrent Planning, and Use of Permanency Committee](#), I-E 3.6. located online at the DHS policy website, [http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual\\_1/i-e36.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual_1/i-e36.pdf)
- Attend a permanency committee in your office and observe several cases being presented. Afterwards talk to the workers about how long it took to decide on a plan and how they chose the plan.
- Ask your Supervisor to help you find a case, which has a well developed concurrent plan to read.

## Discoveries:

- What factors were key to choosing the concurrent goal?
- How long did it take to choose a concurrent goal?
- Is the current goal the appropriate goal in your opinion?
- When was the current goal reviewed?

