

Guardianship

Background Notes

The Assisted Guardianship program was initially funded under a Title IV-E Waiver grant which is designed to reduce a child's time in substitute care. Oregon submitted a proposal and began the program in July 1997. The project resulted in permanent national availability of assisted guardianships. Guardianship can be achieved without the funding attached but most often funding is a barrier to a family's ability to maintain a child long term. Guardianship with relatives is frequently more acceptable to the families that DHS works with than termination of parental rights and subsequent adoption. The steps to guardianship include ruling out a return home and adoption. There are several pertinent policies [Legal Permanency, Concurrent Planning, and Use of Permanency Committee](#) (I E 3.6), [Guardianship as a Permanency Plan \(I-E.3.6.1\)](#), [Guardianship Assistance](#) (I E 3.6.2), [Determining the Appropriateness of Adoption as a Permanency Plan for a Child](#) (I F.2).

Tasks / Assignments:

- Attend a permanency committee in your local office in which guardianship is the permanency choice.
- Review the Choices Chart, CF 976, from the appendix, and discuss with your supervisor.
- Consider whether the following case scenario is a match for Assisted Guardianship:
 - Child is nine years old
 - Placed with grandmother
 - Severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
 - Attending day treatment in Morrison Center
 - Grandmother receives money in addition to the regular foster care rate because of the child's CANS assessment.

Discoveries:

- *What were the factors which most influenced the decision to seek guardianship as the permanency plan of choice in the staffing you attended?*
- *What preparation is required to staff a case before the permanency committee?*
- *Discuss the case scenario with your supervisor. What are the factors that are pertinent to the question of Assisted Guardianship?*

FOR MORE INFORMATION TAKE THE ONLINE TRAINING IN THE LEARNING CENTER ENTITLED "GUARDIANSHIP AS A PERMANENCY CHOICE."

