



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

INFORMATIONAL MEMO

DATE: September 25, 2015

TO: Regional Managing Directors, Community-Based Care CEOs

THROUGH: David L. Fairbanks, Deputy Secretary
Vicki Abrams, Assistant Secretary for Operations

FROM: Janice Thomas, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare
Traci Leavine, Director of Child Welfare Practice *JW for Traci Leavine*

SUBJECT: Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement: Updated Requirements

PURPOSE: This memorandum is to provide direction to case management concerning changes to federal law that impact child welfare practice in Florida.

BACKGROUND: On September 29, 2014, Public Law 113-183, The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, was signed into law and includes amendments to the Social Security Act regarding the use of the permanency goal Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA). The requirements outlined below are effective on September 29, 2015.

ACTION NEEDED: Section 112 of Public Law 113-183 amended Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to limit the use of APPLA as a permanency goal to children age 16 and older. In addition, the amendment adds requirements related to documentation at permanency hearings when APPLA is the identified permanency goal for the child.

Children's Legal Services (CLS) has issued a memo informing CLS staff of the new requirements above. CLS will be meeting with case management to review any child who currently has a permanency goal of APPLA and will not attain the age of 16 prior to the next permanency hearing. For these children, CLS staff will work with case management staff to determine an appropriate alternative permanency goal.

In addition, CLS will be working with case management staff to ensure the following requirements are included in the findings at any permanency hearing for a child with a permanency goal of APPLA. The following findings must be included in the order:

- Case management's ongoing efforts to return the child home or secure a placement with a fit and willing relative, a legal guardian, or an adoptive parent;
- The court's inquiry of the child about the desired permanency outcome;
- The court's determination why APPLA is the best permanency plan for the child and why it is not in the child's best interest to return home, be adopted, or be placed with a legal guardian or fit and willing relative;

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Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

- How the child's current placement is following the reasonable and prudent parent standard; and
- The child's opportunities to engage in age or developmentally appropriate activities.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Should you have questions about this communication, please contact Amy Hand, Office of Child Welfare, at 850-717-4491 or via e-mail at amy.hand@myfamilies.com.

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