

## Reunification Plan

The Reunification Plan is a sample template developed by the Department of Children and Families. The plan is designed to be developed by parties to a case, filed with the court, and ultimately attached to a court order accepting the plan. The plan should be the result of a family-centered staffing with all parties and with counsel in attendance. Because every child is unique, the plan should be adapted as necessary based on the individual circumstances in each case (see italicized font below). A plan that is contingent on future events or compliance should clearly state who will determine compliance, if compliance is not to be determined by the court. Delegation of decision-making to a therapist should not generally occur. Because the court must base the decision concerning reunification on its effect on the child's health, safety, and well-being, the plan should be also amended to include findings of fact and other requirements of section 39.621(10), Florida Statutes.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE <Circuit Number> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR <County>, FLORIDA  
JUVENILE DIVISON <Judge Division>

IN THE INTEREST OF:

CASE NO: <Court Number>

<Child DOB>

\_\_\_\_\_ /

CHILD(REN)

### REUNIFICATION PLAN

COMES NOW, the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families, and hereby submits a proposed reunification plan and in support thereof states:

- 1) It is recommended that the child(ren) be reunified with the mother/father/parents. In order to ensure that the reunification occur in a manner consistent with what is in the best interest of the child(ren) and that the reunification be successful, the following parties have conferred regarding the suggested plan for reunification:

- Mother
- Attorney for the mother
- Father

- Attorney for the father
- Guardian ad litem
- Attorney for guardian ad litem
- Foster parent or current caregiver
- Case worker
- CLS attorney

The parties recommend to the Court that reunification shall occur as follows and for the reasons set forth herein:

2) The children shall be reunified in the following order:

- All children shall be reunified at the same time, or
- Specific child's name shall be reunified first, with other children's name being reunified within *specific timeframe*.

Such staggered reunification is in the children's best interest because *specific reasons why (ie. The oldest child is a medically needy child and it is essential that the parent's be able to acclimate and adapt to the child's special needs without any additional stressors)*.

3) The child(ren) shall be reunified within *specific timeframe*. The scheduling of the reunification as such is in the child(ren)'s best interest because *specific reasons why (ie. The end of the school semester is in a week and the consistency in the child's education is critical, as the child will be changing schools, or FCAT testing occurs next week and it is essential that the child not be disrupted.)*.

4) The child(ren) shall be reunified with the mother/father/parents effective on \_\_\_\_\_date, because: *specific reason for specified date of reunification*.

5) The child(ren) shall be reunified with the mother/father/parents contingent upon the parent completing the following: *specific action (ie. # negative random drug screen, correcting an issue in the home, positive homestudy, safety plan completed)*.

6) The child(ren) shall be reunified with the mother/father/parents with the following conditions or responsibilities previously imposed, or new conditions or responsibilities as ordered by the court: *specific condition (ie. No contact with \_\_\_\_\_, follow essential medical treatment, continued negative drug screens, continuing the child's therapy, parents cooperating with in-home parenting, secure child(ren)'s insurance benefits within \_\_\_\_ days, cooperate with the GAP program, etc), name and title of person who will make determination*.

- 7) The child(ren) has developed a bond with the current custodians and other members of the household; therefore, they shall have an adequate opportunity to appropriately say goodbye to the prior custodians and their children, other foster children or family members living in the home, or friends or other significant relationships at school, before being reunified with the mother/father/parents. In addition, the child(ren) shall have a reasonable time and opportunity to pack up their belongings / possessions before being reunified. The parties have agreed that the child shall remain with the current caregiver no more than \_\_\_\_\_ days before being reunified with the mother/father/parents.
  
- 8) The child(ren) has/have formed a significant bond with the prior caregivers and their family and it is in the child(ren)'s best interest that the bond not be completely severed. The parties intend to involve the foster parents /caregivers in the reunification process as follows: *specific visitation schedule parents agree to allow foster parents / caregivers*. In addition, the department, through its agent, agrees to facilitate said visitation.
  
- 9) The Department shall be responsible for providing the following services to assist the family in a smooth, stable, successful, and permanent reunification: *specific tasks (ie. in-home parenting, daycare, assistance with beds or other financial assistance)*. The Department shall continue to supervise, monitor, and assist the family and will continue to make unannounced visits to the mother's/father's/parent's home.
  
- 10) Additional terms of the reunification shall be as follows: *specific terms/tasks*.

Signature block for all counsel