

Permanency Support and Preservation Model Guiding Principles

1. In order to enhance positive adoption/guardianship outcomes, a permanency framework should be embedded in the child welfare systems, starting at the initial contact.
2. Multi-system collaboration (including education systems, law enforcement, juvenile justice, tribes and behavioral health professionals) is critical in gathering, documenting, sharing and using available information to make critical decisions that impact permanency.
3. Recruitment, selection and support of resource families that are able and willing to promote the well being of children and youth are critical investments in a child welfare system.
4. Data on families and youth should be collected, analyzed, translated, utilized and disseminated in a manner that drives permanency, determines services and assists in developing a coherent system of care.
5. The manner in which birth families are involved throughout the permanency continuum should be more inclusive. To do this, adoptive and guardianship families need assistance in defining the depth and type of engagement that they will have with birth families as well as support in developing and sustaining these relationships.
6. It is essential for children in care to have dynamic, culturally sensitive assessments that are shared and enhanced by all stakeholders. These assessments should be continuously shared with resource families so they are fully informed and necessary services can be provided prior to achievement of permanency.
7. Every transition entails critical life changes that must be appropriately addressed in a timely manner and appropriately to avoid negative impacts on children's trajectory to permanency.
8. Adoption/guardianship is a milestone that requires thorough preparation for children and youth, resource families and their community, regardless of the resource families' relation to the children. The content and manner in which this preparation is completed should be adapted to better support and prepare all parties for permanency.
9. Adoption/guardianship is a life long journey that requires the child welfare system to provide a level of service provision and supports before, during and after finalization.
10. Permanency support and preservation services should adapt to the culture and life cycle of adoptive/guardianship families. The "one size fits all" approach should be avoided and replaced with a service array that can be tailored to the unique needs and circumstances of families.
11. Effective permanency support and preservation services recognize the interdependence of family and community relationships and leverages the assets that a community can assemble to help families.
12. Communities need to be aware of the unique needs of children and youth who have been adopted and/or obtained guardianship so that corporations, individuals and institutions can provide a coordinated, community supported continuum of family based support services.

