

Planning for Permanence

Directions: Work with your small group to answer each of the questions and cite the section of The Juvenile Act, which corresponds to each response.

1. What are the three purposes of permanency hearings?
2. If the court finds that aggravated circumstances exist in the case of a dependent child, what are the two decisions from which the court can choose in making its determination?
3. If there is an adjudication of dependency at which the court determines that aggravated circumstances exist and that reasonable efforts do not need to be made, what is the next step?
4. Permanency hearings must occur within six months of what occurrences?
5. Permanency hearings must be held within 30 days of what occurrences?
6. What matters must be determined at permanency hearings?

Planning for Permanence (continued)

7. What are the exceptions to filing a petition to terminate parental rights?

8. What are the five goals for a child from which the court will select in making a determination at a permanency hearing?

9. What is the mandated rank order of these goals?

10. What additional evidence must the county agency present to the court at a permanency hearing?

11. In addition to permanence, what other goals of the Adoption and Safe Families Act must permanency hearings strive to meet for children?