

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**PETITION FOR PERMANENCY HEARING  
(Dependent Child)**

In the interest of \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Juvenile No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(A MINOR)

To the Honorable Judge of said Court:

It is in the best interest of the child and the public that this proceeding be brought.

The petitioner respectfully requests that the court conduct a permanency hearing to determine or review the permanency plan of said child; to determine the date by which the goal of permanency for the child might be achieved, and to determine whether placement continues to be best suited to the safety, protection and physical, mental and moral welfare of the child. The court is specifically requested to:

- (1) determine the continuing necessity for and appropriateness of the placement;
- (2) determine the appropriateness, feasibility and extent of compliance with the permanency plan developed for the child and whether reasonable efforts have been made to finalize the permanency plan;
- (3) determine the extent of progress made toward alleviating the circumstances which necessitated the original placement;
- (4) determine the appropriateness and feasibility of the current placement goal for the child;
- (5) project a likely date by which the goal for the child might be achieved;
- (6) determine whether the child is safe;
- (7) determine, if the child has been placed outside the Commonwealth, whether the placement continues to be best suited to the protection and physical, mental and moral welfare of the child; and
- (8) determine the services needed to assist a child who is 16 years of age or older to make the transition to independent living;

The petitioner alleges the existence of aggravated circumstances, to wit:

- The identity or whereabouts of the parents is unknown and cannot be ascertained and the parent has not claimed the child within three months of the date the child was taken into custody;
- The identity or whereabouts of the parents is known and the parents have failed to maintain substantial and continuing contact with the child for a period of six months.
- The child or another child of the parent has been the victim of physical abuse resulting in serious bodily injury, sexual violence or aggravated physical neglect by the parent.
- The parent of the child has been convicted of the following offense(s), or the attempt, solicitation or conspiracy to commit the following offense(s), where the victim was a child:

- criminal homicide under 18 Pa.C.S. Ch. 25 (relating to criminal homicide);
- a felony under 18 Pa.C.S. §2702 (relating to aggravated assault), 3121 (relating to rape), 3122.1 (relating to statutory sexual assault), 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual intercourse), 3124.1 (relating to sexual assault) or 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent assault), to wit: \_\_\_\_\_.
- a misdemeanor under 18 Pa.C.S. §3126 (relating to indecent assault).
- an equivalent crime in another jurisdiction, to wit:\_\_\_\_\_
- The parental rights of the parent have been involuntarily terminated with respect to a child of the parent;

And therefore, the petitioner respectfully requests the court to determine on clear and convincing evidence if such aggravated circumstances exist. If the court determines that such aggravated circumstances exist, the petitioner respectfully requests the court to determine whether or not reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify the family shall be made or continue to be made and to schedule any subsequent permanency hearing that may be required.

- The court having previously determined that aggravated circumstances exist and that no new or additional efforts to preserve and reunify the family are required, the petitioner respectfully requests the court to determine whether reasonable efforts have been made to place the child in a timely manner in accordance with the permanency plan and whether the steps necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child have been completed.
- The child has been in placement for at least 15 of the last 22 months or the court has determined that aggravated circumstances exist and that reasonable efforts to prevent or eliminate the need to remove the child from the home or to preserve and reunify the family need not be made or continue to be made. Therefore, the petitioner respectfully requests the court to determine whether the county agency has filed or sought to join a petition to terminate parental rights and to identify, recruit, process and approve a qualified family to adopt the child.
- Although the child has been in placement for at least 15 of the last 22 months or will be in placement for such period consistent with the permanency plan developed for the child, or the court has determined that aggravated circumstances exist and that reasonable efforts to prevent or eliminate the need to remove the child from the home or to preserve and reunify the family need not be made or continue to be made, the county agency does not intend to file or seek to join a petition to terminate parental rights and to identify, recruit, process and approve a qualified family to adopt the child because:

- The child is being cared for by \_\_\_\_\_, a relative determined to be best suited to the welfare of the child.

- The county agency respectfully represents that the following constitutes a compelling reason for a determination that the filing of a petition to terminate parental rights would not serve the needs and welfare of the child:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- The child's family has not been provided with necessary services to achieve the safe return of the child to their home within the time frames set forth in the permanency plan, to wit:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

And therefore, the petitioner respectfully requests the court to determine whether the aforementioned reason constitutes adequate justification for not filing or seeking to join said petition.

Further, the petitioner respectfully requests the court to determine, on the basis of the preceding determinations and all relevant evidence, if and when the child:

- (i) should be returned to the parents, guardian or other custodian;
- (ii) will be placed for adoption and the county agency will file for termination of parental rights;
- (iii) will be placed permanently with a legal custodian;
- (iv) will be placed permanently with a fit and willing relative; or

(v) will be placed in another court-approved living arrangement intended to be permanent in nature if the county agency has documented a compelling reason that it would not serve the child's physical, mental or emotional health, safety or morals to return home, to be referred for termination of parental rights, to be placed for adoption, to be placed permanently with a legal custodian, or to be placed permanently with a fit and willing relative; and to order continuation, modification or termination of placement or other disposition best suited to the protection and physical, mental and moral welfare of the child.

Father's Name and Address  <div style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Unknown</div>	Mother's Name and Address  <div style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Unknown</div>
Spouse's Name and Address (If Available)	Guardian's Name and Address  <div style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Unknown</div>
If the child's parents, guardian or custodian do not reside within the Commonwealth, or if their respective places of residence are unknown, give the name of any known adult relative residing within the county, or if there be none, the known adult relative residing nearest the location of this court:	Relationship <hr/> Address

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME

\_\_\_\_\_ Petitioner

THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Title