

# CONCURRENT PLANNING FULL DISCLOSURE INTERVIEW

## Five Key Items to Discuss during a Full Disclosure Interview

1. Rights
2. Responsibilities – of private/public agency, parent, foster/kinship caregiver
3. Expectations – parents and worker, options, consequences
4. Out-of-home placement's effect on children
  - a. Foster care has an effect on children:
  - b. Multiple placements, broken attachments, children's self-blame, and we are determined to avoid these, for the sake of the child.
5. You, the parent, have choices and paths to choose, here are paths other parents have taken through the system. Generally, there are four paths to take:
  - Parents can **work actively with the agency** on the court-ordered service plan so that reunification is the most likely outcome. This is the choice we hope parents will make.
  - Parents can **withdraw**, disappear, or only sporadically appear so that no service plan can really get going. In this case, the agency will move ahead *more quickly* with an alternative permanent plan. It is vital for parents to know what our response will be if they demonstrate ambivalence or reluctance.
  - Parents can take an **adversarial stance** against all proposed services, visit schedules, evaluations, etc., so that the process slows down while every decision is handled legally, rather than between worker and parent. In this instance, while a permanency outcome will be delayed, the parent will not be able to demonstrate progress to the court on his or her own behalf so reunification is not likely.
  - Finally, a parent can **relinquish permanent custody** of their child. They can decide for their child to live permanently with a relative or alternative permanent caregiver and the worker can help make this happen. It is the parent's right to do this, and can be a good plan in some situations. Often, by agreement (open adoption is not part of Pennsylvania law) between the families, some contact can continue through future years.

*Adapted from Concurrent Planning, Three – Principles Applied: Your Case Plan, Northwest Institute for Children and Families and National Resource Center for Permanency Planning*