

Reasonable Efforts

The court must find that:

- ✓ Reasonable efforts were made to prevent placement,

OR

- ✓ If preventive services were not offered due to the necessity of an emergency placement, the lack of such services was reasonable under the circumstances.
- ✓ The continuation of the child in the home would be contrary to the welfare, safety, or health of the child.

Reasonable Efforts (continued)

Why reasonable efforts:

- Children need secure and uninterrupted emotional relationships
- Preventing unnecessary removal preserves the constitutional right of families to be free from unwarranted state interference
- Repeatedly disrupted relationships with caregivers interfere with a child's well-being
- The child-rearing competence of autonomous families is always superior to that of an agency