

Rule 29. Contents of Agency Report for Review Hearing

The review report shall include the following information:

(a) Recommendations for the current custody and placement of the child;

(b) Factual information and evaluation regarding:

(1) The current addresses and telephone numbers of the parties or a statement of why such information is not provided;

(2) When parents still have not received actual notice of the litigation or are not currently communicating with the agency, the agency's efforts to locate them, provide them with notice of the proceedings, and involve them in the planning for the child;

(3) Progress in ameliorating the condition(s) that resulted in the finding of neglect and placement of the child, and, if returning the child home continues to be the case objective, the actions that should be taken by the parents to permit the return of the child;

(4) Any evidence of new problems that would adversely affect the child;

(5) The record of visitation, including sibling visitation, dates and duration of visits, the person with whom the visit took place, and any reasons why visitation has not occurred or been less frequent than ordered;

(6) The identity, status and placement of any siblings, and if any siblings are separated, a statement of the reasons for the separation and the steps that have been and will be taken to unite them as quickly as possible and to maintain regular contact during the separation;

(7) The record of compliance by parents and agency with the case plan and previous orders and recommendations of the Court, including:

(A) The participation of the parties in developing the plan;

(B) The cooperation of the parent, guardian, or custodian with the applicable department, agency, or institution;

(C) The contacts between the social worker(s) responsible for services and the parent, guardian or custodian, and the child;

(D) The services and assistance that have been provided to the family, the services and assistance that were specified in the plan but not provided, and services to the family that will be needed. For those services that were not provided, an explanation of the reasons for not providing them should be included; and

(E) The implementation of the case plan during the review period, and the progress made towards meeting both the short-term and long-term goals of the plan, with the source of the information indicated.

(8) A description of the environment in which the child is placed and an assessment of whether that environment is the most family-like and appropriate setting for the child, taking into account the child's physical, emotional and educational needs, and whether the child is in close proximity to the parents' home or homes.

(9) Whether services to meet the child's special needs - physical, emotional, and educational - have been provided to the child while in placement and what further services are necessary to meet those needs;

(10) Whether there is a continued necessity for out-of-home placement;

(11) The likely date by which the child may be returned to the home or placed for adoption, guardianship, or custody;

(12) Whether the agency has requested or intends to request the filing by the Corporation Counsel of a motion to terminate the parent and child relationship and, if not, its reasons for determining that such a motion is not appropriate;

(13) If return home is recommended, an explanation of why the child will be safe at home and of any proposed conditions to be required of the agency, parents, and other parties;

(14) If applicable, recommended revisions in the terms of visitation and child support orders and the reasons for the recommendations;

(15) If removal or continued out-of-home placement is recommended, a recommendation concerning whether and for how long services should be continued to reunify the family and the estimated time within which the child can be returned home or whether some alternative permanent placement plan for the child should be adopted;

(16) If out-of-home placement with a goal of reunification is recommended, an assessment of whether it is appropriate and advisable to place the child with a foster family willing to provide a permanent home for the child in case reunification is unsuccessful. If such a placement is appropriate, the agency must indicate what steps are needed to secure and stabilize such a placement;

(17) Current recommendations, if appropriate, for restraining orders, orders to stay away from the child or residence, domestic violence orders of protection, or other injunctive relief;

(18) Any recommended revision of the case plan, such as revised permanency or service goals, additional services to be provided, revised visitation arrangements, or revised time schedules; and

(19) Any recommended modifications to existing court orders.

(c) The report writer shall make every reasonable effort to attach to the review report copies of all available written reports upon which the writer is relying for the writer's recommendations.