



REVISED Updates to the Permanency Hearing Report

In response to the Prevention of Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, OCFS has added new documentation requirements to the Permanency Hearing Report. These questions capture information about the child's participation in age and developmentally appropriate activities and decision-making. The chart below contains the modifications that will be seen with newly launched and in-process PHRs in CONNECTIONS. Finalized PHRs will remain the same. Edits will be in place to ensure the questions have been answered.

These changes will be in effect upon implementation on Friday, December 18, 2015.

Reasonable Efforts to Finalize Permanency – Permanency Goal Section

If a child is 17 1/2 years old but less than 18 on the Hearing Date Certain, the following questions will be displayed:

"Will the transition plan be completed for <first name last name> in the next six months?" with Yes/No answers. If the response is No, a text box will display to "Explain Why."

If a child is 18 years of age or older on the date on the Hearing Date Certain, the following questions will be displayed:

"Will the transition plan for <firstname lastname> be reviewed in the next 6 months and if necessary, a transition plan amendment completed and attached to the permanency hearing report?" with Yes/No answers. If the response is No, a text box will display to "Explain Why."

REVISED — Assistance for filling out the questions regarding the reasonable and prudent parent standard on the Adjustment & Functioning section of the permanency hearing report.

"Have you had a conversation with the caregiver about a reasonable and prudent parent standard?"

The answer selected for this question, must be "yes." "No" should never be selected, as it would not populate the next question.

"How is a reasonable and prudent parent standard being applied to support regular, ongoing opportunities for the child to engage in age and developmentally appropriate activities (including by consulting with the child in an age-appropriate manner about the opportunities of the child to participate in the activities)?"

A text box will then be populated for the worker. **The worker must list what the local department of social services or voluntary authorized agency has done to ensure that the child's caregiver (foster parent or congregate care facility) is following the reasonable and prudent standard.** Examples of answers are: the caregiver was provided training, the caregiver was provided technical assistance, the agency had conversations with the child, and the agency had conversations with the caregiver. **The workers must list what activities the child has participated in during the period of time covered by this report.**



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Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement - Discharge/Transition Section

Long Version: *"Explain why it is not in the best interest of the child to return to home, be placed for adoption, placed with a legal guardian, or placed with a fit and willing relative. Describe the intensive, ongoing and unsuccessful efforts to return the child home, secure a placement for the child with a fit and willing relative (including adult siblings), a legal guardian, or an adoptive parent, including through efforts that utilize search technology (including social media) to find biological family members for the children."*

Short Version: *"Explain why APPLA is in the best interest of the child and how you arrived at that decision."*