

TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS HEARINGS

Assessment of Reasonable Efforts

1. Is there any service that the court, social service agency or the CASA/GAL volunteer deems necessary which has not been provided?
2. Is there any service which the caregiver feels should have been offered that has not been?
3. Have there been any changes in services provided and if so why?
4. Are there any other services which could be provided that would materially affect the ability of the caregiver to parent the child in the next six months?
5. Has measurable improvement occurred in the condition(s) that brought the child into care?
6. If some improvement has occurred, what is the estimated length of time before the child could be returned home?
7. If the child were to return home, what services would have to be in place to assure a minimum sufficient level of care? For how long?

Assessment of Gains & Losses

1. How old is the child and at what age did he / she first come into care?
2. Can the child's placement history be reconstructed from the case record? Make a time line indicating each placement, and its duration, including any returns to the home. Note reasons for moves.
3. Describe the current parent-child relationship. How does it differ from the time at which the child was removed? Has favoritism been observed? Has role reversal been observed?
4. In what way(s) does the child grieve the loss of the parent(s) i.e. acting out, withdrawn behavior, sadness, verbal cues, etc.?
5. What is the child's desire regarding placement at this time?
6. Is there any ambivalence about returning home i.e. fear of previously existing conditions?
7. Is there any ambivalence about leaving the current caretaker?
8. If the child is unable to return home, what level of involvement would the current caretakers have in his or her future?
9. If the current caretakers are not an option, what exploration has been done of other possibilities i.e. relatives, previous caretakers, others known to the child?
10. Has a professional evaluation of this child's attachment to parent figures been done? With what results?