

PERMANENCY
COMMITTEE
INFORMATION

APPLA 1-E.3.6.3

- ✓ Compelling reasons not adoption or guardianship
- ✓ Viable Plan
- ✓ If PFC, caregiver appropriate

Guardianship 1-E.3.6.2

- ✓ Compelling reason not adoption
- ✓ Viable plan
- ✓ Caregiver appropriate

Current Caretaker 1-G. 1.1

- ✓ Will the Foster Parent be considered as a potential adoptive resource.
- ✓ If yes, alone or with others

Consideration of person with existing relationship (non-rel./ non-current caretaker) 1-G.1.2 OAR 413-120-0750 (5)(b)

- ✓ Strength of relationship between individual and child
- ✓ Will individual be considered as a potential adoptive resource?

Sibling Planning 1-F.6

- ✓ Will siblings be separated in an adoption plan?

Permanency Committee

- ✓ Makes recommendation to CWPM or designee
- ✓ 2 "neutral" individuals:
 - DHS Committee Facilitator
 - Community partner or 2nd DHS staff
- ✓ Child's Team members:
 - Each child's worker
 - Children's attorneys
 - Children's CASAs
 - Tribal representation if an Indian child
 - Member of RCWAC if a refugee child

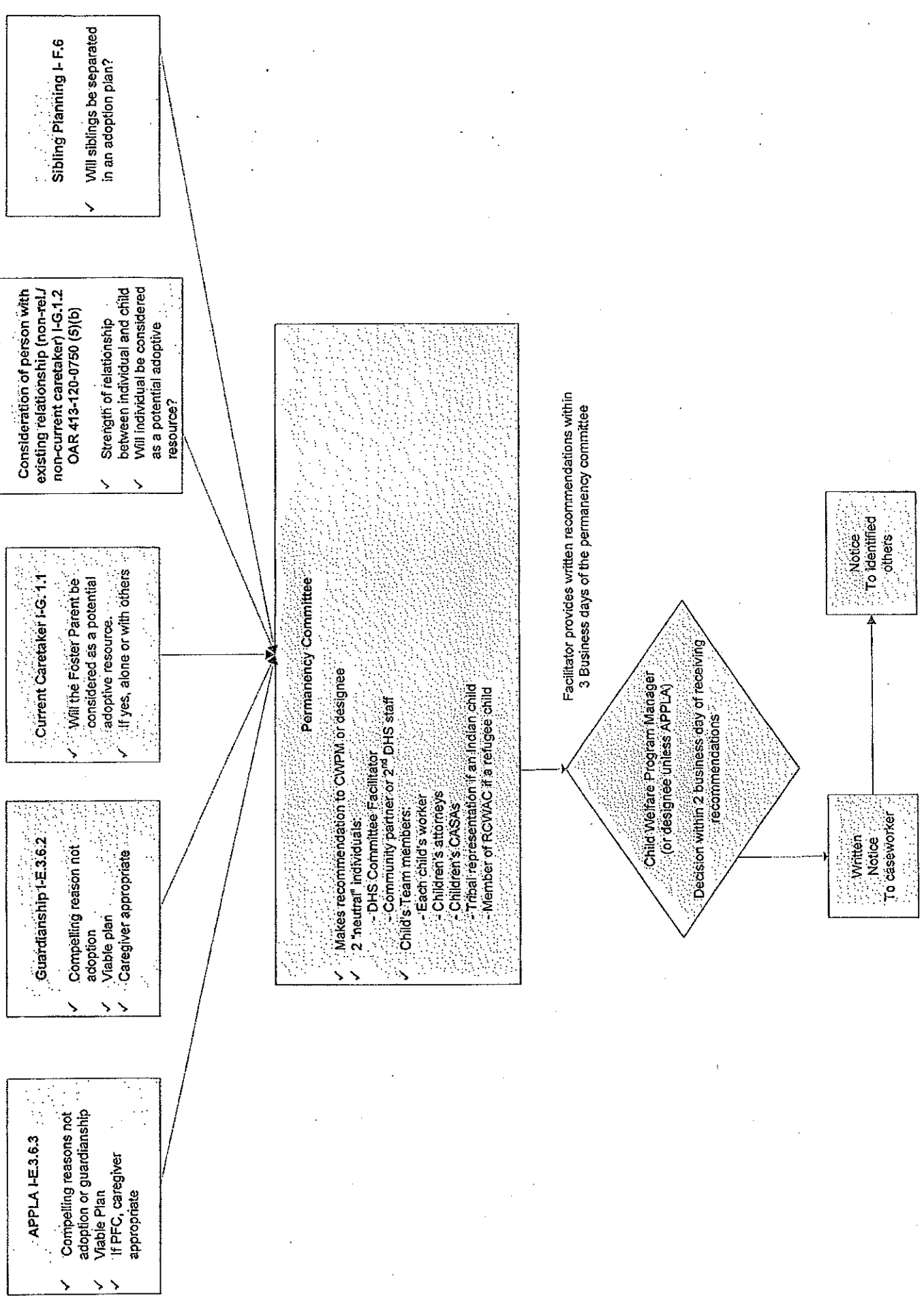
Facilitator provides written recommendations within 3 Business days of the permanency committee

Child Welfare Program Manager (or designee unless APPLA)

Decision within 2 business day of receiving recommendations

Written Notice To caseworker

Notice To identified others



Permanency Committee Process Outline

1. The Permanency Committee is a facilitated team meeting process which makes recommendations to the Child Welfare Program Manager (or Designee).
2. The composition of the Permanency Committee includes: DHS employee who acts as facilitator (formerly known as "chair") and a second "neutral" committee member who could either be a DHS employee OR a community partner; in addition to these 2 individuals the Permanency Committee members include: child's worker; CASA (if they wish to be on Committee) and child's attorney (if they wish to be on Committee). If case is ICWA or Refugee-status, these persons are also invited to be on committee.
3. The Child Welfare Program Manager (or designee) responsible for making the decision on behalf of the Department ATTENDS THE PERMANENCY COMMITTEE and may ask clarifying questions, but does not participate in the deliberation and recommendation.
4. In the case of an APPLA Permanency Committee staffing the Child Welfare Program Manager MUST PERSONALLY ATTEND THE COMMITTEE, NO DESIGNEE ALLOWED.
5. The Permanency Committee must consider and review the information presented, may ask clarifying questions and seek further information during presentations. The Permanency Committee must consider the SAFETY, PERMANENCY AND WELL BEING needs of the child/young adult and make a RECOMMENDATION to the Child Welfare Program Manager or Designee.
6. The Facilitator of the process completes Form CF270/Permanency Committee Forms (2 pages). When members of the Committee have not come to consensus on a recommendation, the committee facilitator must document all recommendations and the basis provided by that committee member for that recommendation.
7. The Facilitator must provide the completed CF270 to the Program Manager or Designee within 3 days of the Committee.
8. The Child Welfare Program Manager (or Designee unless APPLA) must complete Form CF271/Child Welfare Program Manager Decision within 2 business days of receiving CF270/Recommendation. Copies of the final decision Form CF271 are given to the caseworker and sent to Central Office Adoptions Program in Salem.

Hand Out For Permanency Committee Members:

**Determining Factors for a Committee Recommendation to
Change the Permanency Plan to APPLA**
(413-070-0536(1); 413-070-0550(1); 413-070-0640(2-8))

1. **Is there a compelling reason why it is not in the child's best interests to:**
 - a. be placed with a parent?
 - b. be placed in an adoptive home?
 - c. be placed with a legal guardian?
2. **How does the APPLA plan meet safety, permanency, and well-being of the child and is in the best interests of the child?**
3. **Did DHS provide the child and the child's parents an opportunity to identify available permanency resources?**
4. **Do the parents accept the plan of APPLA? What is their desire for continued contact with the child?**
5. **Is the substitute caregiver able to meet the child's needs for:**
 - a. physical and emotional safety
 - b. attachment to family
 - c. continuity and familiarity
 - d. need for educational, developmental, emotional and physical support
 - e. permanent family relationships
 - f. stability
 - g. support the child's identity, development, and cultural and religious or spiritual background
6. **Is the APPLA plan sufficient for continued sibling contact, unless such contact is not in the best interests of the child?**
7. **Possible Permanency Committee Recommendations for APPLA:**
 - a. APPLA is the appropriate permanency plan for the child.
 - b. The Committee does not find that it is in the best interests of the child for the permanency plan to be changed to APPLA.
 - c. The Committee needs more information before a recommendation to change the permanency plan to APPLA can be made.

Hand Out For Permanency Committee Members:

Determining Factors for Consideration as a Person with an Existing Relationship

(413-070-0640(1-8); 413-120-0750(5)(b); 413-120-0246(1))

1. **Is it in the child's best interest for this person to be assessed as a potential adoptive resource?**
2. **What is the strength of the relationship between each child and this person?**
3. **What is the likelihood this person will have a positive adoption home study and be able to meet the standards for an adoptive home by demonstrating the knowledge, skills, and ability to meet, without Agency oversight, the current and lifelong needs of the child including:**
 - a. physical and emotional safety and well being
 - b. developing and maintaining connections to the child's family
 - c. continuity and familiarity
 - d. appropriate social, educational, developmental, emotional and physical support
 - e. integration into the family
 - f. stability and permanency
 - g. maintaining the child's identity, cultural, religious, and spiritual heritage
4. **To what extent has this person demonstrated the knowledge, skills, abilities, and commitment to raise each child under consideration for adoption?**
5. **To what extent does this person have the capacity to meet the current and lifelong safety, permanency, and well-being needs of the child?**
6. **Permanency Committee Recommendations for Existing Relationships:**
 - a. The Committee recommends this person to be assessed as a potential adoption resource.
 - b. The Committee needs more information before recommending this person to be assessed as a potential adoption resource.
 - c. The Committee cannot recommend the person to be assessed as the adoptive resource for the children because they do not meet the criteria.

Hand Out For Permanency Committee Members:

Determining Factors for a Recommendation of Sibling Separation

(413-110-0132(1))

1. **What are the current and lifelong needs of each child and of each sibling?**
2. **Does each child have significant emotional ties to each sibling?**
3. **What are the needs of each child and each sibling considering the following:**
 - a. physical and emotional safety
 - b. ability to develop and maintain current and lifelong connections to the child's family
 - c. continuity and familiarity
 - d. appropriate educational, developmental, emotional and physical support
 - e. stability and permanency
 - f. maintaining the child's identity, cultural, religious, and spiritual heritage
4. **Permanency Committee Recommendations for Sibling Separation (413-110-0123(2)):**
 - a. The Committee does not recommend the Sibling Separation because it is not in the best interest of the child or the siblings and the caseworker must continue to make efforts to place the siblings together for the purpose of adoption.
 - b. The Committee recommends the Sibling Separation for the purpose of adoption because it is in the best interest of the child or siblings.

(When there are multiple siblings, the Committee recommendations should be in consideration of which siblings in the sibling groups should remain together for the purpose of adoption and how those matches are in the best interests of each sibling).

Hand Out For Permanency Committee Members:

Determining factors for a Current Caretaker Recommendation

(413-120-0246(1); 413-120-0570(2))

1. **Does the Current Caretaker have an adoption home study recommending the applicant as a potential adoptive?**
2. **Does the Current Caretaker meets the standards for an adoptive home by demonstrating the knowledge, skills, and ability to meet, without Agency oversight, the current and lifelong needs of the child including:**
 - a. physical and emotional safety and well being
 - b. developing and maintaining connections to the child's family
 - c. continuity and familiarity
 - d. appropriate social, educational, developmental, emotional and physical support
 - e. integration into the family
 - f. stability and permanency
 - g. maintaining the child's identity, cultural, religious, and spiritual heritage
3. **To what extent does the Current Caretaker have the knowledge, skills, abilities, and commitment to raise the child and each sibling if there are siblings under consideration for adoption in the same adoptive family?**
4. **To what extent does the Current Caretaker have the ability to meet the ongoing needs identified in (i) above for each child *and each sibling*?**
5. **Possible Permanency Committee Recommendations for Current Caretakers**
 - a. The Current Caretaker will be considered alone with no restaffing necessary after the completion of the adoption home study because Current Caretaker meets the standards for an adoptive home by demonstrating the knowledge, skills, and ability to meet, without Agency oversight, the current and lifelong needs of the child.
 - b. The Current Caretaker will be considered, however, a restaffing is needed after the completion of the adoption home study.
 - c. The Current Caretaker will be considered with other studied relatives.
 - d. The Committee does not believe the Current Caretaker is likely to be able to meet the individual needs of the children over time and cannot recommend the Current Caretaker as the adoptive resource for the children.

Hand Out For Permanency Committee Members:

Determining factors for a plan of Guardianship

(413-070-0640(1-8); 413-070-0660(1)(a)(b);
413-070-0665(3)(a-e); 413-070-0670(2)

1. **How does potential Guardian meets the child's needs for:**
 - a. physical and emotional safety
 - b. attachment to family
 - c. continuity and familiarity
 - d. need for educational, developmental, emotional and physical support
 - e. permanent family relationships
 - f. stability
 - g. support the child's identity, development, and cultural and religious or spiritual background
2. **Is the child unable to safely return to the home of a parent?**
3. **Is adoption not in the child's best interest?**
4. **Does the potential guardian have a current Certificate of Approval to operate a foster home and an updated study regarding their skills and abilities with the child?**
5. **Does the potential guardian agree they can maintain a stable relationship and function effectively with the child and any siblings under consideration without Department supervision?**
6. **Does the potential guardian have adequate means of financial support and connections to community resources?**
7. **Does the potential guardian have a strong commitment to caring permanently for the child and any siblings under consideration?**
8. **Did DHS provide the child and the child's parents an opportunity to identify available permanency resources?**
9. **Permanency Committee Recommendations for Guardianship**
 - a. Guardianship is the appropriate permanency plan for the child.
 - b. The Committee recommends an expansion or update of the Foster Home Study/Guardianship Assessment
 - c. The Committee does not find that it is in the best interests of the child to be placed under the guardianship of the current caretaker and cannot recommend the current caretaker as a permanent resource for the children.