

## Permanency Planning Matrix

PERMANENT PLAN	OBJECTIVE	LEGAL STATUS	LEGAL CUSTODY AND CAREGIVER RESPONSIBILITY AFTER PERMANENT PLAN ACHIEVED	BIRTH / ADOPTIVE PARENT RIGHTS / RESPONSIBILITY	FINANCIAL SERVICES AVAILABLE / MONTHLY SUBSIDY	MEDICAL	EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	SERVICES POST 18
<p>Reunification</p> <p><b>Federal Timeline requires this permanency plan be achieved within 12 months of OPD</b></p>	<p>Preferred option when safety threats are managed, or eliminated, or aggravated circumstances do not exist.</p> <p>Maintains family connections and provides permanency beyond age 18.</p>	<p>Parental rights remain with birth / legal parent.</p>	<p>The dependency is dismissed and all care and custody is returned to the parents.</p> <p>Note: DCYF does not provide ongoing services or supervision.</p>	<p>Full parental rights and responsibility.</p>	<p>May be eligible for benefits and services such as monthly grant and Medicaid through the Community Services Office, DSHS.</p>	<p>Responsibility of the family.</p>	<p>Youth may be eligible for some DCYF services dependent upon age youth returned home and individual program requirements.</p> <p>Additional information can be found at: <a href="http://independence.wa.gov/">http://independence.wa.gov/</a></p> <p>For information on college financial aid options visit a financial aid office at a local college or go to: <a href="http://www.wsac.wa.gov/PayingForCollege">http://www.wsac.wa.gov/PayingForCollege</a></p>	<p>Youth may be eligible for extended foster care services. Additional information can be found at <a href="http://independence.wa.gov/">http://independence.wa.gov/</a></p>
<p>Adoption</p> <p>Note: DCYF does not provide ongoing supervision. Post Adoption Services are based upon child's need and family circumstances.</p> <p><b>Federal Timeline requires this permanency plan be achieved within 24 months of OPD</b></p>	<p>Provides permanency for a child when adoption rather than reunification or guardianship is determined to be in the child's best interest.</p> <p>Child becomes a permanent and legal member of a family with all the legal rights of a birth child.</p> <p>Adoption is a lifelong legal relationship that cannot be modified in court.</p>	<p>Parental rights are relinquished or terminated unless it is a customary adoption established through Tribal court.</p>	<p>Upon entry of adoption decree, child becomes legal child of adoptive parents. The adoptive parents have all care, custody and legal rights to make decisions on the child's behalf. Child has inheritance rights.</p> <p>Title IVE adoption assistance can follow the youth to a subsequent adoption.</p>	<p>Adoptive parents assume full parental rights. Birth parents have no parental rights after termination, unless a customary adoption established through Tribal court.</p> <p>Birth and adoptive parent may have ongoing contact under an Open Adoption Agreement.</p>	<p>By applying for assistance through the adoption support program, adoptive parents may be eligible for finalization costs including legal fees. Families also may be eligible for a monthly cash reimbursement.</p>	<p>Medical and dental coverage for the child is provided as specified in the adoption support agreement.</p> <p>Pre-Authorized Counseling can be available and includes individual, family or adoptive parent counseling. Evidence Based or Evidence Informed Counseling is also available to adoptive families.</p>	<p>Youth eligibility for post-high school grants and scholarships is program specific.</p> <p>Additional information can be found at: <a href="http://independence.wa.gov/">http://independence.wa.gov/</a> ; or <a href="http://www.wsac.wa.gov/PayingForCollege">http://www.wsac.wa.gov/PayingForCollege</a></p> <p>Youth adopted after age 13 are eligible to complete FAFSA forms as an independent person.</p>	<p>Adoption support benefits will automatically stop on the youth's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday unless the youth meets eligibility requirements and the parent(s) have provided documentation of the youth's continuation in high school prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.</p> <p>If adopted after the age of 16, youth may be eligible to receive support up to age 21 if the parents are providing financial support and the youth is participating in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. High school/high school equivalency program; or</li> <li>2. Post-secondary academic or vocational program; or</li> <li>3. Participating in a program to promote employment; or</li> <li>4. Employed 80 hours or more a month</li> <li>5. Has a documented medical condition that prevents participation in the first four categories (effective 6/2016).</li> </ol>

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<p>Guardianship (Chapter 13) Note: DCYF does not provide ongoing services or supervision. Children in guardianships are not considered foster children.</p> <p><b>Federal Timeline requires this permanency plan be achieved within 18 months of OPD</b></p>	<p>Provides permanency for a child with an approved adult when guardianship instead of reunification and adoption is determined to be in the child's best interest.</p> <p>Legal relationship ends on the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.</p>	<p>Parental rights are not required to be terminated.</p> <p>Although the parent continues to be the legal parent the guardian has full care, custody, and control of the child.</p> <p>The dependency is dismissed.</p>	<p>The legal guardian maintains physical and legal custody with full responsibility for care, custody, and the right to make decisions regarding the child.</p> <p>The guardian can choose whether or not to provide an inheritance to a child; it is not a right for the child.</p> <p>For qualified relatives, RGAP subsidy can transfer to a successor legal guardian if one is named in the RGAP agreement and the legal guardian becomes incapacitated or dies.</p>	<p>The guardianship order shall include visits. All visits are the responsibility of the guardian.</p> <p>The court may continue to order that the birth parent is still responsible for child support.</p> <p>Modification of guardianship order may occur.</p>	<p>A subsidized guardianship may be available to licensed relatives that meet the requirements of the Relative Guardianship Assistance Program (RGAP). They must be foster care licensed for at least 6 months with the child in placement prior to establishing the guardianship. The RGAP agreement must be signed prior to establishing the guardianship. The program also reimburses legal fees paid up-front by the guardian.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p>Guardians who do not qualify for RGAP may apply for financial support (TANF) through local Community Service Offices; household income is no longer reviewed to determine eligibility.</p>	<p>Medical and dental coverage is provided as specified in the R-GAP agreement. Evidence Based or Evidence Informed Counseling is also available to guardianship families.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p>Guardians may apply for medical for the child through local Community Service Offices or put the child on their own insurance.</p>	<p>Youth eligibility for post high school grants and scholarships is program specific. Refer to Educational Resources for Youth in Foster Care Through DSHS in Washington State or a Tribal Child Welfare Agency, form <a href="https://www.dshs.wa.gov/16-229">DSHS 16-229</a>, for foster youth specific Educational Resources.</p> <p>Additional information can be found at: <a href="http://independence.wa.gov/">http://independence.wa.gov/</a> or <a href="http://www.wsac.wa.gov/PayingForCollege">http://www.wsac.wa.gov/PayingForCollege</a></p>	<p>RGAP subsidy may continue for youth up to age 21 if the guardianship was established when the youth was age 16 or older and the youth is enrolled or has applied for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.High school/high school equivalency program; or</li> <li>2. Post-secondary academic or vocational program; or</li> <li>3.Participating in a program to promote employment; or</li> <li>4. Employed 80 hours or more a month</li> <li>5. Has a documented medical condition that prevents participation in the first four categories (effective 6/2016)</li> </ol> <p>Check with the RGAP Gatekeeper to determine eligibility.</p>

<p>Limited Guardianship RCW 11.130.215 Note: DCYF does not provide ongoing services or supervision.</p>	<p>Provides permanency for a child with a court appointed limited guardian. Legal relationship ends on the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.</p>	<p>Parental rights remain intact. Although the parent continues to be the legal parent the limited guardian has full care, custody or control of the child. The court may order that the parent remain involved in some decision making. The dependency is dismissed.</p>	<p>The petitioner becomes legal limited guardian with full responsibility for care, custody and the right to make decisions regarding the child. The court may order that the parent remain involved in some decision making.</p>	<p>Birth parent remains the legal parent and is responsible for child support. Custody orders may include visits. Modification of custody orders may occur if the basis for the limited guardianship no longer exists, and the modification would not be harmful to the youth and the youth's interest if maintaining the guardianship outweighs the parent's interest in regaining their rights.</p>	<p>May apply for financial support through the Community Services Office, DSHS. Eligibility for medical, financial and food voucher programs is dependent upon program requirements. Limited guardian's income will not determine eligibility.</p>	<p>May apply for medical through the local Community Service Office.</p>	<p>Youth eligibility for post high school grants and scholarships is program specific. Additional information can be found at: <a href="http://independence.wa.gov/">http://independence.wa.gov/</a>; or <a href="http://www.wsac.wa.gov/PayingForCollege">http://www.wsac.wa.gov/PayingForCollege</a></p>	<p>Youth may be eligible to apply for TANF or SFA if they are under age 19 and participating in a secondary education program full-time, progressing toward completion and meets the eligibility requirements for cash but no medical benefits. Washington Administrative Code 388-404-0005.</p>
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