

CASE PLANNING

Case Planning: General Principles

Policy 36-1

Policy

The Department of Children and Families shall develop case plans for all children under its supervision using a family-centered, trauma-informed approach in (1) assessing families' strengths and areas of need, (2) providing services to address those needs, and (3) providing ongoing monitoring of their progress.

See also: "[Case Planning Practice Guide](#)."

Purpose and Goal of Case Planning

Case planning shall be an essential part of working with families and shall be an ongoing process. Case plans shall provide a road map to assure safety, permanency and well-being for families and children.

Case planning is required by law.

Legal references: [42 U.S.C. 675](#); Conn. Gen. Stat. [17a-15\(b\)](#).

The goal of case planning shall be to assess and address the family's needs in a culturally- and linguistically-responsive manner through engagement and partnership with family members and service providers. Family engagement and the assessment process shall be ongoing, beginning with the initial DCF contact with the family, and continuing throughout the life of the case until case closure.

Case planning occurs through a "trauma lens" that includes a recognition and appreciation of the high prevalence of trauma that is often experienced by children, youth and families served, coupled with an understanding of the profound neurological, biological, psychological, cognitive and social effects of trauma and violence on the child and family. Case planning is planful, purposeful, anticipatory and proactive, aimed at reducing or eliminating the potential for further harm or re-traumatization.

Principles of Case Planning

Everyone desires respect.

Everyone needs to be heard.

Everyone has strengths.

Judgments can wait.

Partners share power.

Partnership is a process.

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Family Case Plans

Initial and ongoing family case plans shall be developed for:

- all families with an open case in ongoing services including unsubstantiated transfers and Family Assessment Response cases;
- families with an open case in the Voluntary Services Program;
- families with an associated child in placement whose permanent or concurrent plan is reunification; and
- families with an associated child in placement (regardless of the child's permanency plan) for whom DCF is providing services (other than visitation) to address a parent's or guardian's identified needs.

Child in Placement Case Plan

Initial and ongoing child in placement (CIP) case plans shall be developed for:

- children who are at home but committed to DCF;
- youth age 18 and older while the DCF case remains open; and
- children in out-of-home care regardless of age or placement type when the legal basis for the placement is:
 - a Voluntary Services Program placement; or
 - a court order (96 hour hold, order of temporary custody, abuse/neglect/uncared for commitment, FWSN commitment, dual commitment, probate court order, TPR/statutory parent); or
 - a voluntary placement agreement.