

**Placement  
Guidelines**

The following guidelines shall be considered in allowing children to be placed in a legal risk home:

- Both parents have consented to termination, but the matter has not been resolved in court.
- One parent has consented to termination and
  - the other parent's identity is not known
  - the other parent's whereabouts is unknown
  - the other parent is known, but has been totally uninvolved.
- The child has been abandoned by parents of unknown identity or whereabouts.
- The termination has been granted but is either being appealed or the judgement is not yet final.
- Termination has been filed without parental consent. The following situations are some examples:
  - child(ren) placed who have sustained life threatening injuries and/or have been so severely abused that a return home is not recommended
  - child(ren) placed whose parents have documented histories which indicate poor reunification prognosis (example: severe psychiatric problem, substance abuse, Termination of Parental Rights on other siblings, history of inadequate parenting skills)
  - child(ren) for whom reunification has occurred but who have been returned to placement because of new neglect or abuse.
- A child(ren) has been placed in a foster home, which is not a potential adoptive home.
- Other reasons may be considered on a case by case basis.

Note: The Department has the authority to place a child for adoption only after a court has empowered it to do so.

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