

Nancy K. Keeling
Authorized Signature

Number: CW_IM_08_008
Issue Date: 03/24/08

Topic: Foster Care

Subject: Consultation with children and youth in developing permanency plans

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

Message: The purpose of this memorandum is to remind casework staff of the requirement to involve, in an age appropriate manner, children and youth in the development of the child's permanent plan.

Children and youth can be involved in numerous ways, depending on their age. It may be appropriate to have these conversations within the context of therapy, when helping a child complete part of a life story book, or in general conversations during face to face contact, as well as other situations that fit the developmental and mental health of the child.

It is important to let the child know, that many factors affect decisions regarding the permanency plan, but that their input is important and valued. ORS 419B.343(b) requires that, "case planning in any case incorporates the perspective of the ward...." DHS policy I-B 3.1, Requirements for Review of the Case Plan, requires that during a case plan review, the caseworker must consider input received **from the child or young adult**, the service providers, safety plan participants, substitute caregivers, attorneys, a child's CASA, persons with significant attachments to the child, and family members.

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

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