

HANDOUTS

QUESTIONS FOR CASE CLOSURE

- ❑ How have the parental behaviors negatively impacting on child safety changed?
- ❑ How have the contributing factors to these behaviors changed?
- ❑ How have the risk factors changed in a way that impacts the level of risk?
- ❑ How has the family's ability to meet the children's needs for safety and/or minimum degree of care changed?
- ❑ How have the conditions for change been modified in ways that impact the family's ability to provide for the safety and basic needs of the children?
- ❑ How does the parent demonstrate a sense of efficacy and internalization of responsibility in managing daily life with and for the children?
- ❑ How has the parent demonstrated acceptable caregiving within the context of an increasing level of autonomy?
- ❑ How have the dynamics that led to abuse or maltreatment changed?
- ❑ In adoption cases, have the parents been provided assistance in securing pre- and postadoption services designed to support and expedite adoptions?
- ❑ If child development is a concern, how has the family utilized services outside the Cabinet or its contract agencies to help remediate the lag?
- ❑ In what ways has the family demonstrated a capacity to manage their involvement with collateral resources outside Cabinet involvement?

ASFA: CLOSURE CHECKLIST

1. Start planning for closure early

- Start planning for closure from the beginning of the agency's work with the family.
- Continue planning throughout the agency's involvement with the family by evaluating outcomes and fostering family connections to self-help resources and other support systems, so that at termination there are connections to sustain the plan.

2. Decide when to terminate

- Meet with the family, individuals important to the child, and representatives of other agencies providing services to the child and family to evaluate progress toward the goals and to assess the family's ability to maintain stability in the absence of child welfare involvement.
- Based on the findings from monitoring and evaluation, consult with the family, individuals important to the child, and representatives of other agencies providing services to the child and family about ending services when it is demonstrated that acceptable levels of child safety and well-being can be maintained by the family without agency involvement of when determination has been made to terminate parental rights and the new replacement is offering a secure, safe environment for the child.
- Obtain supervisory and court approval to support termination recommendations.

3. Come to closure

- Review positive aspects of intervention with the child, family, and support system. Plan how safety skills will be mandated in the future with the biological and/or the adoptive family.
- Help all partners deal with residual emotions, particularly those relating to loss and disappointment.
- Plan to work with the adoptive family to maximize family connections (sibling and child relationship) regardless of permanency plan.
- If the plan does not involve reunification, ensure that the family and caregiver have negotiated and clarified the parents' future role with the child.

4. Anticipate the future

- Reach an agreement with the family about an ongoing post-closure safety plan that is appropriate to the family's reality and context. This plan might include provision of services and supports and monitoring from community resources.
- Prepare the caregiver for how the child may process issues at different developmental phases.
- Review and rehearse with the family possible future problems and coping/prevention strategies.

ASFA: CLOSURE CHECKLIST (2)

5. Complete the documentation

- Complete termination paperwork and procedures.
- Provide the family a copy of the “discharge summary”.

6. Courts

- Work with the court to develop a review process for cases until permanency is actually achieved (e. g. adoption not termination).
- Provide closure plans and final court reports to the court in a timely manner. Be sure the reports are clear and child-focused.

U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, A Resource Guide, Rethinking Child Welfare Practice under the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, November 2000.

