

Finding: "Wording"

"The parents have made **SUFFICIENT** progress to make it possible for the child to safely return home."

This finding applies ONLY when the plan is RETURN TO PARENT

The finding is made separately for EACH PARENT.

Is Compliance always equal to "Sufficient Progress"?

Sufficient Progress:

Sufficient progress does not mean the child can *immediately* return home.

It is determined by parental improvement in areas necessary for the child to safely return home within a reasonable time.

CONSIDERATIONS

- RATE OF PROGRESS
Progress is measured by ASFA timelines/within court ordered extension or 15 of 22 months
- BASIS OF JURISDICTION
Founded Allegations
- Confirmed Safety Threats - DHS
- Action Agreements/Letters of Expectation - DHS
- MINIMAL CONDITIONS for return
- THE CHILD'S NEEDS: Safety Plan, age , vulnerability, special needs



ASFA requires measurement

*SEC.475.[42 U.S.C. 675] (4) (B): ASFA requires the status of each child to be reviewed periodically but no less frequently than once every six months by either a court or by administrative review...in order to determine the safety of the child, the continuing necessity for and appropriateness of the placement, the extent of compliance with the case plan, and the **extent of progress which has been made toward alleviating or mitigating the causes necessitating the placement...***

Oregon Safety Model Terminology:

Safety Threats: (16) determined at time of assessment

Conditions for Return: a written statement of the specific behaviors, conditions, or circumstances that must exist within a child's home before a child can safely return and remain in the home with an in-home ongoing safety plan.

Protective Capacities: behavioral, cognitive, and emotional characteristics that can specifically and directly be associated with a person's ability and willingness to care for and keep a child safe.

Expected Outcomes: an observable, sustained change in behavior, condition, or circumstance that, when accomplished, will increase a parent's protective capacity and reduce or eliminate an identified safety threat.
(no longer requiring Child Welfare intervention)

**Progress is measured by demonstrated behavior change.
The goal is safe, sustainable reunification.**

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

INFORMATION: Case material and verbal input at the review

ASFA TIMELINES: Court imposed timeline, extensions and previous history.

SERVICES: When the service was provided by DHS and how quickly the parent engaged in the service, and has participation been ongoing.

INTERNALIZATION: Demonstrated of safe, sustainable behavior

FEEDBACK: From all parties – progress and barriers

MINIMAL STANDARDS : May or may not be your personal standards

SPECIFIC CRITERIA

Jurisdictional basis and court orders for Each Parent

DHS Action Agreements and/or Letter of Expectations

Treatment recommendations

DHS providing services in a timely manner

Parent compliance with services – attendance, frequency, duration

Treatment provider reports

DHS reports

Attorney, CASA, and other players reports

Compilation of changed behavior

Additional CRITERIA

How long has the child been in substitute care?

What is the parent's relationship and understanding of the child's needs?

How have the documented safety threats present at time of removal been ameliorated?

New safety threats? Does a new petition need to be filed?

What are the remaining barriers and safety issues that prevent the child from returning home now?

At the parent's current rate of progress, is it likely the child can return home safely in a reasonable period of time?



PARTIES

Caseworker, Parents, Attorneys,
Service Providers, CASA, child/teen,
Foster Parent, Tribe, relatives

TIP: Pay close attention during introductions and note who is in attendance and their relationship to the case.

MAKE THE FINDING

Is the parent making sufficient progress toward reunification? (Make for each parent separately)

Briefly summarize rationale for YES/ NO

Make recommendations to address any NO findings

Board Demeanor

The demeanor of the board affects the level and quality of participation by the parties.

- Be aware of your own perspectives and perceptions and how they influence you
- Be sensitive of your audience (Trauma Informed)
- Ask appropriate and relevant questions
- Avoid lecturing, counseling, and story telling
- Be aware of body language and tone of voice
- Address parties by name and not their role (except foster parent)
- Be conscious of time allocated for review



"Progress is the activity of today and the assurance of tomorrow."

~Ralph Waldo Emerson



Related finding: "The permanency plan is the most appropriate plan for the child."

- When the plan is no longer return to parent, Parental Progress is often addressed under Finding #9 (appropriateness of the permanency plan).
- That said, if a parent and/or the parent's attorney is present, it is appropriate to ask for their comments in Finding #6, especially if parental rights are not relinquished or terminated.
- Every child deserves the highest level of permanency.

Parental Progress Scenario

Discussion, FINDING, Recommendations

QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU

