



FINDINGS GUIDE

The board will introduce the case and may need to verify the following legal information:

We are reviewing the case of: *(Child's Name and Age)*

The child was placed in foster care on: *(Date of Removal)*

Jurisdiction was established on: *(Date of Jurisdiction for each parent)*

Jurisdiction was based on: *(Allegations of Petition for each parent)*

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA): *(Does apply/ Does not apply/ or Pending)*

The permanency plan is:

The concurrent plan is:

1. Has DHS made reasonable efforts to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from the home? (Active efforts if ICWA applies)

This finding applies if this is the FIRST review of the case.

- What efforts, if any, did DHS make to avoid placing the child(ren) out of the home?

2. Has DHS made diligent efforts to place the child with a relative or a person who has a caregiver relationship?

This finding applies in ALL cases.

- Is the child placed with a relative?
- Are there any other available relatives?
- Are siblings placed together?

3A. Has DHS ensured that appropriate services are in place to safeguard the child's safety, health and well being?

This finding applies in ALL cases.

- What services are being offered to the child?
(i.e. Placement, Education, Mental/Physical Health, Family Connection)
- Are additional services needed?

3B. Has DHS taken appropriate steps to ensure that 1) the substitute care provider is following the reasonable and prudent parent standard, and 2) the child has regular, ongoing opportunities to engage in age appropriate or developmentally appropriate activities?

This finding only applies when the child is age 16 or older AND the current permanency plan is APPLA.

- What steps has DHS taken?
- What activities is the child interested in?
- Are there any barriers to providing access to these activities?
- When did DHS last consult with the substitute care provider/the child regarding opportunities to participate in activities?

- 4. Has DHS made reasonable efforts to provide services to make it possible for the child (children) to safely return home?** (Active efforts if ICWA applies)
This finding applies if the goal is RETURN TO PARENT.
- What services has DHS provided or offered?
 - Are additional services needed?
- 5. Has DHS made reasonable efforts in accordance with the case plan to place the child in a timely manner and to complete the steps necessary to finalize the permanent placement, including an interstate placement if appropriate?**
This finding applies if the CONCURRENT goal has been implemented.
- What efforts is DHS making to finalize the permanency plan? (Adoption, APPLA, Guardianship).
- 6. Have the parents made sufficient progress to make it possible for the child to safely return home?**
This finding applies if the goal is RETURN TO PARENT. Progress is determined separately for each parent as measured within court ordered timelines.
- How has each parent addressed the safety concerns?
 - Is each parent actively engaged in the required services?
- 7. Has DHS made sufficient efforts in developing the concurrent “back up” permanency plan?**
This finding applies only when the plan is RETURN TO PARENT.
- The concurrent plan is the “back up” plan.
 - What is the concurrent plan?
 - What resources have been identified?
- 8. Is DHS in compliance with the case plan and court orders?**
This finding applies in ALL cases.
- Has DHS followed policy, court orders, and prior CRB recommendations?
- 9. Is the permanency plan the most appropriate plan for the child?**
This finding applies in ALL cases.
- What plan best meets the child’s needs?
- 10. Is there a continuing need for placement?**
This finding applies in ALL cases.
- Are there any barriers to reunification?
 - What is the estimated date to leave care?

Additional Findings:

Recommendations: (i.e. plan, placement, services)