

# QUESTIONS GUIDE

## EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FOR EACH CRB FINDING

1

Has ODHS made reasonable efforts to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from the home?

**\*Covers all ODHS efforts prior to removal. Finding made at 1st review only.**

What efforts did ODHS make to eliminate the need for removal?  
What assistance or services were provided related to each identified safety threat? Parents, was there anything else that could have helped?  
Was there a family resource who could have assisted with eliminating the need for removal? Did ODHS determine whether someone could have left the home in order to keep the child safely in the home?  
If ICWA, did ODHS immediately consult with the tribe?

2

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

**\*Assessing ODHS's efforts to place the child with a relative.**

Is the child placed with a relative or person who had a pre-existing caregiver relationship? If not, what efforts were made to do so? What is the status of the relative search (paternal and maternal)? Was it conducted timely and documented? Are there other relatives that parents believe should be contacted? If ICWA, did the agency coordinate with the tribe? Did ODHS consider a deeper relative search such as through Family Find?

3  
A

Has ODHS ensured that appropriate services are in place to safeguard the child's safety, health and well-being?

**\*Remember to give parents the primary opportunity to talk about how their children are doing - do not direct all questions at ODHS/resource parents.**

(Often good to ask for a brief description of each child first!) How is each child doing? What are their needs? What services are they getting? Has ODHS followed up on every recommendation from each assessment? Assessments: Did each child get a well-child exam (all ages) and dental exam (age 1+) within 30 days of entering care, and annually after that? Was a mental health assessment (or for very young children, a developmental assessment) and a CANS assessment completed within 60 days of entering care? Is parent-child contact sufficient, can it be expanded or moved to more natural settings? Are educational supports in place? Does the child have access to extracurriculars?

3  
B

Has ODHS taken appropriate steps to ensure that the substitute care provider is following the reasonable and prudent parent standard, and the child has regular, ongoing opportunities to engage in age or developmentally appropriate activities?

If youth is age 14+, are they on track to graduate and has ODHS started a transition plan? Age 15 and 11 months, has ODHS made a referral to ILP?

**\*Finding 3B is only for children age 16+ with permanency plan of APPLA.**

Is this teen being treated like a member of a family with normal access to resources, experiences, and fun?

4

Has ODHS made reasonable efforts to provide services to make it possible for the child to safely return home?

**\*Focus solely on ODHS's efforts, not parents' efforts.**

Has ODHS provided services/assistance to help parents ameliorate each basis of jurisdiction? (If no juris. yet, has ODHS provided parents with an offer letter?) Has ODHS identified/addressed barriers to services? Is there a current Action Agreement (or Letter of Expectation if parent is unwilling to sign an AA) for each parent? Has there been a Family Engagement Meeting? Were services and support offered timely? Have conditions of return been explained to parents? What else do parents/their attorneys feel is needed?

5

Has ODHS 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?

***\*Only make this finding when the permanency plan is not reunification.***

What steps has ODHS taken to finalize the permanency plan since the last permanency hearing? Is the child placed in their permanent home? If not, what is being done to get them there (recruitment, relative searches, ICPCs, etc.)? Are steps being completed timely: Home study, designation of placement, adoption/guardianship assistance paperwork, TPR petition filed if adoption. Are the needs of the permanent resource family being met timely? If APPLA, is there a Permanent Foster Care Agreement in place?

6

Have the parents made sufficient progress to make it possible for the child to safely return home?

***\*Finding is made individually for every parent in reunification cases.***

"Sufficient progress" does not mean child can return home today; It is determined by whether the rate of parental improvement will be sufficient for the child to safely return home within a "reasonable time" given the child's needs. Look for opportunities to congratulate parent on any successes. Have parents made some measurable/noticeable change to address every issue set forth in the bases of jurisdiction? What are the remaining barriers to reunification, and is parent working on those?

7

Has ODHS made sufficient efforts in developing the concurrent permanency plan?

***\*Only make this finding when the permanency plan is reunification.***

Has ODHS had conversations with the parents about their wishes for their child if they were unable to resume care? Has ODHS identified a potential permanent placement for the child? If not, what efforts are being made to do so? Are birth/medical records, Father's Questionnaire and ICWA documentation on file? Status of ongoing relative search? Has ODHS staffed this case? ICPC requests made for any possible out-of-state placements?

8

Is ODHS in compliance with the case plan and court orders?

Has ODHS complied with all court orders from the judgments you received? Has ODHS implemented (or responded that they intend not to implement) every prior CRB recommendation? Has ODHS made "reasonable efforts" in this case (see your findings on 1, 4 and 5)? Is ODHS in compliance with the laws, rules and policies applicable to the case plan (i.e.: the permanency plan)(see your findings on 2, 3, and 7)? Is ODHS having at least monthly face-to-face contact with each child (with every other contact in the child's placement)?

9

Is the permanency plan the most appropriate plan for the child?

Do CASA, child's attorney, and tribe (if any) agree that the current permanency plan is the most appropriate for this child? If plan is anything but reunification, you may assess whether reunification may once again be a better plan. Consider long-term needs of this family and the lifelong value of parent-child relationships. If the current permanency plan is imperfect, but there is no benefit to changing the plan, consider making a "yes" finding. Is there a better permanent plan for this child?

10

Is there a continuing need for placement?

Can child go home on an in-home safety plan today, with continued ODHS supervision? If not, why exactly? What remaining safety threats exist that cannot be safely managed with an in-home safety plan? What conditions of return have not been met? What date does ODHS expect to achieve an in-home plan? Is transition-home planning occurring? If plan is not reunification, what is the likely date the child's adoption/guardianship will be finalized?

