



## FINDINGS GUIDE

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

**We are reviewing the case of:** *(Child(ren)'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:**

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

*This finding only 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?
- **If ICWA applies:** Did active efforts eliminate the necessity for removal based on serious emotional or physical damage to the Indian child? If not, was that because emergency removal of the Indian child was necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm?

**2. Has ODHS made diligent efforts to place the child(ren) 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 other available relatives?
- Are siblings placed together?

**3A. Has ODHS ensured that appropriate services are in place to safeguard the child(ren)'s safety, health and wellbeing?**

*This finding applies in ALL cases.*

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

**3B. Has ODHS 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 ODHS taken?
- What activities interest each child?
- Are there barriers to providing access to these activities?
- When did ODHS last consult with the substitute care provider or child(ren) regarding opportunities to participate in activities?

**4. Has ODHS made reasonable efforts to provide services to make it possible for the child(ren) to safely return home? (Active efforts if ICWA applies.)**

*This finding only applies if the permanency plan is REUNIFICATION.*

- What has ODHS provided or offered?
- Are additional services needed?

**5. Has ODHS made reasonable efforts in accordance with the case plan to place the child(ren) in a timely manner and to complete the steps necessary to finalize the permanent placement, including an interstate placement if appropriate?**

*This finding only applies if the CONCURRENT plan has been implemented.*

- What efforts is ODHS making to finalize the permanency plan?
- **If ICWA applies:** Has ODHS made active efforts to place the child in a timely manner in accordance with the placement preferences for Indian children?

**6. Have the parents made sufficient progress to make it possible for the child(ren) to safely return home?**

*This finding only applies if the permanency plan is REUNIFICATION. 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 ODHS made sufficient efforts in developing the concurrent “back up” permanency plan?**

*This finding only applies when the permanency plan is REUNIFICATION.*

- What permanent placement resources have been identified?
- **If ICWA applies and the child is placed in a home outside of placement preferences:** Has ODHS continued to maintain the relationship of the Indian child with potential adoption preferences? If not, has ODHS continued to search for a permanent placement that complies with the placement preferences?

**8. Is ODHS 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(ren)?**

*This finding applies in ALL cases.*

- What plan best meets each child’s needs?

**10. Is there a continuing need for placement?**

*This finding applies in ALL cases.*

- Are there any barriers to reunification?
- **If ICWA applies and the plan is reunification:** Have active efforts eliminated the necessity for continued removal based on serious emotional or physical damage to the Indian child?

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**Additional Findings:**

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

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