



Model Court Team Project

Ensuring Safety and Stability of In-Home Plans

Objective	To reduce re-entry and disrupted in-home plans.
Court Partners Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model Court Team Partners: Judge(s), Oregon Department of Justice, Oregon Department of Human Services-Child Welfare, public defenders, CASA, CRB, service providers, and parent mentor(s).
Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rate of Re-Entry (within 12 months of discharge) ODHS Dashboard: Re-Entry ODHS Public Data: Re-Entry • Trial Reunification Success Rate *internal ODHS data, ask your local Permanency Consultant
Data Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an internal assessment of individual cases to identify trends. • Invite feedback from families and community partners.
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the key insights or takeaways from the Model Court Summit? • What is one small, actionable step you can take today to support successful family reunification? • Team Discussion Prompt: <i>In what ways can each of us, through our individual roles, collaborate more effectively to enhance the safety and stability of in-home placements?</i>
Reporting & Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an action plan with local strategies. *see examples • Re-evaluate and refine strategies in future meetings. • Each MCT member shares strategies and information within organization and with local community partners.
Follow-Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track quarterly data and measure improvement. • Continue feedback loops with community partners.
Additional References & Resources	<p>Model Court Summit 2025 - Educational Materials</p>



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Strategies for Ensuring Safety and Stability of In-Home Plans

Example Strategies

Our team, within our individual roles, will work together to improve the safety and stabilization of in-home cases.

The Court

- **Judicial Review Scheduling**
The court will ensure that judicial reviews are scheduled promptly and occur at intervals that support appropriate and effective oversight.
- **Safety Plan Evaluation**
The judge will examine the safety plan and pose detailed questions to assess the stability and safety of in-home placements.
- **Issuance of Specific Orders**
The judge will issue specific orders as deemed appropriate based on the circumstances of the case.
- **Requests for Updates or Early Review**
The judge may direct ODHS to submit written update letters to the court and/or may request an early review by the Citizen Review Board (CRB).
- **Hearing on Contested Dismissal**
If any party opposes ODHS's recommendation to dismiss legal custody, the court will schedule a hearing to address the matter.
- **Case Closure Consideration**
The judge may consider setting a hearing or holding a closure ceremony to formally conclude the case.

Attorneys

- **Client Communication During Trial Reunification**
Attorneys will maintain consistent communication with their clients before and throughout the trial reunification period to identify potential barriers and assess any additional service needs.
- **Participation in Family Meetings**
Attorneys will participate in Family Decision Meetings and Placement Prevention Meetings to provide legal insight and advocate for their client's perspective in the development of the safety plan.
- **Facilitation of Collaborative Meetings**
Attorneys will coordinate and facilitate regular meetings between their clients and ODHS to support case progress and ensure alignment on goals and expectations.



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Oregon
Department of
Human Services
Child Welfare

- **Structured Decision-Making for Reunification**

ODHS will establish clear internal protocols and expectations surrounding reunification decisions, including:

- Enhanced transition planning with input from service providers, CASAs, attorneys, and support from resource parents;
- Timely and adequate notification to all parties regarding the intent to return the child home;
- Increased parental engagement to ensure understanding of the conditions for return and expected outcomes.

- **Pre-Reunification Family Decision Meeting**

ODHS will convene a Family Decision Meeting prior to reunification to support transition planning. CASA and legal representatives will be provided with ample notice to participate.

- **Development of Ongoing Safety Plans**

ODHS will collaborate with parents and their attorneys, as well as CASA, children's attorney, and Safety Service Providers (SSPs) to create individualized ongoing safety plans that reflect the unique needs of each family.

- **Review and Submission of Safety Plans**

- Ongoing safety plans will be reviewed every 30 days in accordance with policy and revised as necessary.
- When notifying the court of a child's return, ODHS will submit the current ongoing safety plan along with the change of placement letter.
- The most recent safety plan will also be submitted to the court and the Citizen Review Board (CRB) for scheduled reviews.

- **Face-to-Face Contact Requirements**

- ODHS will comply with face-to-face contact requirements both prior to and the day following the child's return home.
- Contact will continue at a frequency and intensity appropriate to the family's needs, exceeding minimum policy standards when necessary.

- **Placement Prevention Prior to Disruption**

Before disrupting an in-home plan, ODHS will hold a Placement Prevention Meeting unless immediate action is required due to present danger.

- **Supportive Relationships with Resource Parents**

ODHS will encourage continued connection and support between the child and the resource parent, including opportunities for parent-to-parent meetings or facilitated introductions.



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CASA

- **Participation in Family Meetings**
CASAs will attend Family Decision Meetings and Placement Prevention Meetings to offer input and advocate for the child's best interests in the development of the safety plan.
- **Ongoing Home Visits and Reporting**
CASAs will continue conducting regular home visits and will submit reports summarizing their observations and assessments.
- **Advocacy for Support Services**
CASAs will identify and advocate for additional supports as needed, including physical resources and natural support systems.
- **Recommendations for Structured Interventions**
CASAs will recommend structured interventions—such as family meetings or review hearings—when appropriate to support the child's safety and well-being.

Citizen Review Board

- **Review of Trial Reunification and In-Home Cases**
The Citizen Review Board (CRB) will review cases involving children on trial reunification.
- **Assessment of Family Supports**
The CRB will ask targeted questions to evaluate whether parents and children have sufficient supports in place to maintain safety and stability.
- **Recommendations Based on Concerns**
If concerns are identified, the CRB may recommend modifications to the safety plan and/or request a judicial review to ensure appropriate oversight.

Oregon Department of Justice

- **DOJ Case Collaboration Enhancement**
The Department of Justice (DOJ) will increase the frequency of case reviews and collaborative meetings with caseworkers to support ongoing case staffing and oversight.

Parent Mentors

- **Ongoing Client Support**
Parent Mentors will maintain consistent communication with clients to provide encouragement, guidance, and emotional support.
- **Navigation of Services**
Parent Mentors will assist clients in identifying and accessing additional services to meet their individual needs.
- **Building Support Networks**
Parent Mentors will help clients develop and strengthen their personal support networks, including both formal and informal resources.



December 12, 2025

Definition: (Round 4) Of all children who exit foster care in a 12-month period to reunification, living with relative, or guardianship, what percent re-entered care within 12 months of discharge.

Federal Standard: 5.6% or below.

** masked number to protect privacy (count below 5).

Counties with no score had no base population (below 20) to achieve an outcome.

Court	2024	# re-entries	2025 YTD (Q1 – Q3)	# re-entries
Baker	0%	0	0%	0
Benton	0%	0	14.8	**
Clackamas	16.8%	19 of 113	22%	15 of 69
Clatsop	0%	0	0%	0
Columbia	11.1%	**	20%	7 of 35
Coos	10.6%	**	4.2	**
Crook	0%	0	0%	0
Curry	9.5%	**	5.3%	**
Deschutes	11.5%	9 of 78	7.2	7 of 97
Douglas	12.3%	10 of 81	14%	19 of 72
Gilliam				
Grant	0%	0	0%	0
Harney	5.9%	**	6.7%	**
Hood River	0%	0	0%	0
Jackson	3.3%	**	6.4	9 of 140
Jefferson	0%	0	0%	0
Josephine	10.6%	**	8.5%	**
Klamath	4.3%	**	3.6%	**
Lake	0%	0	0%	0
Lane	11%	18 of 164	12.4%	25 of 201
Lincoln	8.3%	**	0%	0
Linn	8.6%	8 of 93	10.8%	9 of 83
Malheur	15%	9 of 60	8.3%	**
Marion	1.7%	**	5.8%	7 of 120
Morrow	0%	0	0%	0
Multnomah	6%	16 of 265	8.2%	20 of 245
Polk	8.6%	**	17.2%	**
Sherman				
Tillamook	33.3%	**	0%	0
Umatilla	10.3%	7 of 68	6.7%	**
Union	0%	0	0%	0
Wallowa	0%	0	0%	0
Wasco	7.1%	**	0%	0
Washington	6.4%	10 of 156	5.3%	10 of 188
Wheeler				
Yamhill	11.9%	**	16.7%	7 of 42
Statewide	8%	150 of 1869	8.3%	158 of 1811