



New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families Policy Manual

1575 PERIODIC COURT REVIEWS

Chapter: Case Management Standards for CP and JJ Field Services

Section: Legal Processes

Approved:

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References Of Note

Federal Authority: [42 USC 675\(5\)\(B\)](#)

Statutes: [RSA 169-B](#), [RSA 169-C](#), and [RSA 169-D](#)

Administrative Rules:

Case Law:

This policy defines the requirement for periodic court reviews for children in placement.

Required Practices

Any deviations to the following information must be documented with Supervisory Approval.

- I. The CPSW/JPPPO must request the court schedule:
 - A. A periodic court review no later than 6 months from the date of placement; and
 - B. Subsequent periodic court reviews no later than every 6 months thereafter for the duration of the child’s placement.

- II. Periodic court reviews must be held for children:
 - A. Up to age 21 in out-of-home care, including those placed at SYSC or in Shelter Care;
 - B. On runaway status from their placement, unless they have been on runaway status for at least 6 months preceding the review; and
 - C. Whose parents’ rights were voluntarily surrendered or legally terminated, until adoption or another permanency goal is achieved.

- III. The CPSW/JPPPO ensures the court considers the following when conducting the periodic review, by providing applicable information in a report to the court 5 days before the periodic review hearing:
 - A. The safety status of the child and steps DCYF has taken to address safety concerns;
 - B. The continuing necessity for and the appropriateness of the placement;
 - C. The level of compliance with the child’s case plan;

- D. The progress made to alleviate or mitigate the reasons for the placement;
- E. The likely date by which the child may safely return home or be placed for adoption or legal guardianship;
- F. For children with APPLA as their primary permanency goal:
 - 1. The steps taken to ensure the child's foster family or other placement provider is following the reasonable and prudent parent standard; and
 - 2. Whether the child has regular, ongoing opportunities to engage in age- or developmentally-appropriate activities (including age-appropriate conversations with the child about the opportunities of they have had to participate in the activities); and
- G. For children who have been, and will continue to be, placed in a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP):
 - 1. The ongoing assessments of the child that support the continued need for QRTP placement as the most appropriate and least restrictive level of care for the child consistent with their short- and long-term goals;
 - 2. The specific treatment or service needs for the child and the length of time the child is expected to need them; and
 - 3. The efforts made to prepare the child for a less restrictive placement setting.
- IV. During the hearing, the attending CPSW/JPPO or DO Attorney must be prepared to provide updated information to support the court report and inclusion of any activities to meet needs identified relative to section III through proposed orders.
- V. The CPSW/JPPO or DO Attorney will review the court orders upon receipt for any actions ordered based on considerations relative to section III.
- VI. Periodic court reviews may be combined with other hearings as long as requirements in Section III are addressed.
- VII. The CPSW/JPPO must ensure periodic court reviews are held according to the original 6-month requirement outlined in Section I throughout any placement changes.
- VIII. The CPSW/JPPO must ensure all reviews and associated activities are documented on the appropriate screens of the DCYF electronic information system within 5 days.

Glossary and Document Specific Definitions

A - B C - D E - F G - I J - L M - N O - Q R - S T - V W - Z

Document Change Log			
PD	Modification Made	Approved	Date