

Section 12 – Reasonable Efforts

Primary Resources

Title, Date & Author	Brief Synopsis	Additional Notes
<p>Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2020). <i>Family Engagement: Partnering with Families to Improve Child Welfare Outcomes</i>. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau. Retrieved October 27, 2021, from https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/f_fam_engagement.pdf</p>	<p>This publication provides an overview of child welfare family engagement strategies that are core to providing reasonable efforts. While written for social service professionals, the bulletin can provide judges with basic information regarding some of the reasonable efforts child welfare agencies can make to find and engage families.</p> <p>Topics include family meetings, father engagement, incarcerated parents, and more.</p>	<p>The bulletin provides numerous great resources in the electronic version that can be accessed directly from the website, https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/f_fam_engagement.pdf</p> <p>To retrieve the article, use the link below:</p> <p>https://ocfcpacourts.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/1.-Family-Engagement-Partnering-new.pdf</p>
<p>Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2020). <i>Reasonable efforts to preserve or reunify families and achieve permanency for children</i>. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau. Retrieved August 22, 2021, from https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/reunify.pdf</p>	<p>The first 5 pages of this resource, provides an overview of federal law regarding reasonable efforts. This includes what constitutes reasonable efforts, when reasonable efforts are required to be made, and the circumstances under which reasonable efforts to reunify the family are not required. The remaining 48 pages summarize reasonable efforts laws for all States and U.S. territories.</p>	<p>Only pages 1-4 and 44-45 are included in this printed version of the Resource Companion. To retrieve the article, use the link below:</p> <p>https://ocfcpacourts.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/1.-Reasonable-Efforts-to-Preserve-or-Reunify-Families-and-Achieve-Permanency-for-Children.-new-</p>

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<p>Edwards, L. (2020). Reasonable Efforts: Let's Raise the Bar. <i>The Guardian</i>, 42(01), 21–24. www.NACCchildlaw.org. Retrieved April 22, 2021, from http://judgeleonardedwards.com/docs/reasonable-efforts-lets-raise-the-bar-2020.pdf</p>	<p>This article, written by retired Judge Leonard Edwards, provides reasonable efforts tools judges can use to ensure children remain in their home of origin or reunify safely and expeditiously if removed. This resource outlines seven key areas often overlooked by attorneys and judges with helpful tips aimed at supporting timely permanence.</p>	<p>committee-to-review.pdf</p> <p><i>To retrieve the article, use the link below:</i></p> <p>https://ocfcpacourts.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2.-Reasonable-Efforts-Lets-Raise-the-Bar.-new.pdf</p>
<p>Milner, J., & Kelly, D. (2018, November). <i>Reasonable Efforts as Prevention</i>. National Council of State Courts. Retrieved August 22, 2021, from https://www.ncsc.org/data/assets/pdf_file/0024/19293/reasonable-efforts-as-prevention.pdf</p>	<p>This article provides information for attorneys and judges emphasizing the prevention of child maltreatment and unnecessary removals of children through the judicial reasonable efforts finding requirement.</p>	<p><i>To retrieve the article, use the link below:</i></p> <p>https://ocfcpacourts.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/3.-Reasonable-Efforts-as-Prevention.-new-committee-to-review.pdf</p>
<p>National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (2020, November). <i>Making Reasonable Efforts Findings in a Pandemic</i> [Video]. NCJFCJ. Retrieved August 22, 2021, from https://www.ncjfcj.org/webcasts/making-reasonable-efforts-findings-in-a-pandemic/</p>	<p>One-hour webinar by NCJFCJ featuring Judge R. Michael Key of Georgia regarding the examination of reasonable efforts. Judge Key also highlights special considerations brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p><i>To retrieve the article, use the link below:</i></p> <p>https://ocfcpacourts.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/4.-Making-Reasonable-Efforts-Findings-in-a-Pandemic-Webinar-new-committee-to-review.pdf</p>

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<p>Office of Children & Families in the Courts. (n.d.). Dependent Children of Incarcerated Parents. Retrieved November 11, 2021, from https://ocfcpacourts.us/childrens-roundtable-initiative/state-roundtable-workgroupscommittees/dependent-children-of-incarcerated-parents</p>	<p>In September 2011, the Pennsylvania State Roundtable created the Dependent Children of Incarcerated Parents Workgroup. The website provides Workgroup recommendations about engagement of incarcerated parents in case planning, coordination and delivery of services, visitation, and hearing participation. It also provides an educational video for judges and lawyers, a rights and responsibilities tool for incarcerated parents, and many additional resources.</p>	<p><i>To access this information, use the link below:</i></p> <p>https://ocfcpacourts.us/childrens-roundtable-initiative/state-roundtable-workgroupscommittees/dependent-children-of-incarcerated-parents/</p>
<p>Office of Children & Families in the Courts. (n.d.). Father Engagement. Retrieved November 11, 2021, from https://ocfcpacourts.us/childrens-roundtable-initiative/state-roundtable-workgroupscommittees/father-engagement</p>	<p>In May 2009, the Pennsylvania State Roundtable identified the issue of father involvement in child dependency matters as a priority. Recognizing the value of fathers in the life of their children, Pennsylvania State Roundtable members created the Father Engagement Workgroup. The website provides three bench cards, reports, and resources to help judges, attorneys and child welfare professionals successfully engage fathers.</p>	<p><i>To access this information, use the link below:</i></p> <p>https://ocfcpacourts.us/childrens-roundtable-initiative/state-roundtable-workgroupscommittees/father-engagement/</p>
<p>Wentz, R. M., Beck, K. L. (2012). Unlocking “Reasonable Efforts”: Kinship is Key. Clearinghouse REVIEW, <i>Journal of Poverty Law and Policy</i>. 46(3-4) 99-112. Retrieved November 17, 2020, from http://www.wentztraining.com/wp/wp-</p>	<p>This article connects reasonable efforts judicial findings to several issues. The author highlights the use of Kinship Care as a reasonable effort strategy.</p>	<p><i>To retrieve the article, use the link below:</i></p> <p>https://ocfcpacourts.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/5.-Unlocking-Reasonable-Efforts.-Kinship-is-the-Key.-new.pdf</p>

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content/uploads/2013/01/JPLP-Journal-Article.pdf		

