

BEST PRACTICE BOXES

Chapter 2: Act 118 of 2022: Family Finding

- Family Finding and Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) 2-2
- Emergency Family Meeting 2-3
- Ask the Parties 2-6
- Eco Maps 2-7
- Calendaring 2-9

Chapter 3: Role of Judges and Juvenile Court Hearing Officers

- Court Scheduling 3-3
- Trauma 3-4
- Ice Breaker Meetings 3-7
- Eliminating/Reducing Sidebars 3-9
- Attorney Training 3-10
- Legal Representative Practice Standards 3-11
- Feedback Strategy 3-12

Chapter 4: Jurisdiction

- One Judge/One Family 4-3
- Child Welfare and Safety 4-5

Chapter 5: Right to Legal Representation

- Online Pre-Service Training for GALs 5-2
- GAL Meetings with the Child 5-3
- Parents' Counsel 5-5
- Helping Parents Understand Dependency Court 5-7
- Additional Colloquy Questions 5-8
- Substitute Counsel 5-9

Chapter 6: Entering the Child Welfare System/Shelter Care Hearing

- Pre-Trial Voluntary Services 6-2
- Reasonable Efforts 6-4
- Presiding over Shelter Care Hearings 6-5
- Least Restrictive Placement Setting 6-6
- Finding & Engaging Absent & Putative Fathers 6-7
- Obtaining Parents' Medical History 6-9
- Assignment of Counsel 6-10
- Reasonable Efforts 6-13

Chapter 7: Adjudication Hearing

- A Trip to the Courthouse "Social Story" 7-8

Chapter 8: Visitation	
• Visitation Practices	8-3
• Caseworker Visits after Critical Incident Reports	8-9
Chapter 9: Incarcerated Parents	
• Inclusion of Incarcerated Parents	9-2
• Court Hearings with Incarcerated Parents	9-3
• Visits in Local Jails and Prisons	9-5
Chapter 10: Disposition Hearing	
• Frontloading Services	10-2
• Family Service Plan Requirements	10-3
• Active, Ongoing Court Oversight	10-4
• Educational Information	10-7
• Hearings to Determine Whether Appointment of an EDM is Needed	10-8
• Active, Ongoing Court Oversight	10-9
Chapter 11: Modification of Placement	
• Minimizing Unnecessary Moves	11-1
• Using a Trauma-Informed Perspective	11-2
• Minimizing Trauma	11-3
Chapter 12: Permanency Options	
• Kinship Caretaker	12-5
• Family Finding Revised	12-12
Chapter 13: Permanency Hearing	
• Frequent Judicial Oversight	13-3
• Issues to be Emphasized at Permanency Hearings	13-4
• Permanency Reviews Every Three Months	13-6
• Considerations for Permanency Hearings	13-7
• Establishing Paternity	13-11
• Kinship Care	13-12
• Ensuring Equity in Engagement and Services	13-18
• Children Appearing at Every Hearing	13-19
• Creating & Approving the Transition Plan	13-21
• Creative Visitation Plans	13-22
• Benefits of Frequent Family Time	13-23
• Questions to Ask When a Child is on Psychotropic Medication	13-26
• Preventing a Goal of APPLA	13-28
• Helping Older Youth Secure Permanency	13-30
• Family Finding Report	13-31
• Findings and Orders	13-34

Chapter 14: Permanency Hearing to Consider Change of Goal	
• Goal Change Initiation	14-3
• Combining Goal Change and Termination Hearings	14-4
Chapter 15: Termination of Court Supervision	
• Case Closure Plans & FGDM	15-2
• Services after Termination of Supervision	15-4
• Youth in Court	15-5
• Mandatory Transition Plans & FGDM	15-7
• Custody Agreements & Family Conferencing	15-8
• Hearing Appearances	15-8
• Placing Children in Other States	15-11
Chapter 16: Resumption of Jurisdiction	
• Access to the Court	16-3
• Who Attends/Is Excluded From the Hearing for Resumption Cases	16-4
• Transition Plan	16-6
• Youth Service Array	16-7
Chapter 17: Termination of Parental Rights	
• Active Judicial Oversight	17-2
• Avoiding Delays	17-3
• Locating Absent Parents	17-4
• Appointment of Counsel	17-5
• Limiting Continuances	17-6
• One Judge/One Family	17-7
• Making the Record	17-8
• Combined Hearings	17-10
• Courtroom Observations	17-14
• Bond Findings	17-14
• Findings and Orders	17-18
Chapter 19: Adoption	
• Adoption Celebrations	19-1
• One Judge/One Family	19-2
• Adoption Subsidies & Services	19-4
• Attendance at Adoption Hearings	19-5
• Conduct of Adoption Hearings	19-5
Chapter 20: General Issues	
• Communication with the Agency	20-7
• Expedited or Emergency FGDM	20-11
• Seeking Revisions in FGDM Plans	20-12

• Management and Statistical Reports	20-16
• Motivational Interviewing (MI)	20-21
• Congregate Care Placement with Delinquent Youth	20-33
• FGDM as Transition Planning	20-37
• Court/Agency Collaboration	20-44
• Trauma-Informed Courtroom Procedures	20-47
• Trauma-Informed Courtroom Environment	20-48
• Managing Anxiety in the Courtroom	20-49
• Court Facility Dogs	20-50
• Trauma-Informed Courtroom Communication	20-51

(Page intentionally left blank)