

Situations Requiring ARA Approval on the Jurisdiction/Disposition Hearing Report

The following situations require ARA approval on the Jurisdiction/Disposition Hearing report:

1. The child is fifty-nine (59) months or younger, and one (1) of the following applies:
 - The allegations are of physical or sexual abuse, failure-to-thrive, or parental substance abuse, and the plan is to allow the child to remain in the home.
 - There is a new allegation on an open case, and the plan is for the child to remain in the home.
 - The court has ordered the return of the child to the home against the recommendation of DCFS and at the next hearing DCFS is recommending that the child continue to remain in the home.
 - The recommendation is changed from suitable placement to home of parent.
2. The recommendation is Family Reunification (FR) for a case that meets the Fast Track to Permanency (FTP) criteria.
3. The placement exceeds thirty (30) days in a temporary/emergency shelter care facility.
4. The child is age six (6) years or younger (i.e., birth to eighty-three (83) months, inclusive) and is placed in congregate care.
5. Placing a child younger than thirty-six (36) months of age in a relative/non-relative extended family member (NREFM) or in a foster family home, if two (2) or more children under the age of thirty-six (36) months already reside in the household.
6. The placement of a child in the home of a relative/NREFM, certified foster family home or in a licensed foster family home in which six (6) or more children (age birth to eighteen (18) years) already reside, as long as the licensed capacity of the home is not violated.
7. The placement of more than eight (8) children in the home of a relative or NREFM if that placement is solely for the purpose of placing siblings together and all of the policy-specified conditions are met.
8. Placement of a third child with or without special needs in a home, which already has more than two (2) children receiving, needing, qualifying for, or being eligible to receive a specialized care rate, regardless of the licensed capacity.
9. There is a recommendation for Family Maintenance (FM) for at least one (1) child and the CSW is recommending FR or Permanent Plan for one (1) or more other children in the home.
10. Leaving children in the home when siblings are detained.
11. A child under the age of five (5) is left in the home.
12. Recommendations for continued jurisdiction for youth age eighteen (18) or older who do not appear to meet any of the participating criteria for extended foster care.
13. Recommendation of FM for all sexual abuse cases.
14. Provision of FM services when FM services have been provided on a voluntary basis or under court supervision in the past five (5) years for the same or similar allegations.
15. Extending FM services beyond the initial six (6) months.
16. Extending FM services beyond the twelve (12) months.
17. Concurrent Planning Assessment (CPA) and Jurisdiction/Disposition court report when the permanent plan is for legal guardianship with an NREFM and the permanent plan is Planned Permanent Living Arrangement.
18. Decision to remove child (non-emergency situations) from the home of a prospective adoptive parent report.
19. Report requesting a continuance.