

S-208 PERMANENCY PLAN



In this document, the non implicit gender applies to both men and women.

Version 4 effective September 28,2011

(previously SE-09)

Policy

When a child is admitted to Valoris' care, his parents' parenting skills and the chances of successfully reuniting the child with his family must be assessed as quickly as possible. At the same time, an alternative permanent placement plan must be drawn up to ensure that he will continue to receive care and have stability in his life (*Concurrent Planning*).

When he is admitted, his plan of care must include a permanency plan whose purpose is to ensure that he will continue to receive the care provided by his family. The first goal of this plan is obviously to return him to his parents as soon as possible. The activities of this return home plan shall be defined in the services to the family plan and shall be the responsibility of the family's welfare worker.

During his placement, measures must be taken to ensure that the child can continue to carry on his sporting, cultural, religious and other activities. He may continue to accumulate souvenirs and photos in a life book.

In parallel with the return home plan, all services must be put in place during his placement to ensure that care continues with his foster family.

If returning home to his parents is or seems to be impossible, the permanency plan must explore, as soon as possible, other alternatives that will provide the child permanency in his life, such as:

kinship or kithship out of care
kinship or kithship in care
placement under our care
guardianship
adoption
independent living according to a youth's age and level or preparation
if the child is aboriginal, provide care in keeping with his traditions

A permanency planning committee must systematically develop a permanency plan in all the following cases:

- Any child over six years old in placement for more than three months;
- Any child six years old or under in placement for more than 30 days;
- Any child who has been to court for a change of status or for whom it is planned to ask the court for permanent wardship, before applying to the court;
- Any child who has experienced more than two moves since his admission.

A child welfare worker and/or his supervisor may ask that the Permanency Planning Committee review the file at any time during the file's life, if it deems it necessary.

Procedure

1. Criteria guiding the preparation of the permanency plan

The following criteria shall guide the child welfare worker in his choice of the best alternative for ensuring a child's stability:

- family history;
- the plan proposed by the family or the extended family;
- the quality of the child's attachment to and relationship with his parents or foster family;
- the child's age and level of development;
- his needs;
- his best long-term interests;
- his wishes;
- his community culture.

2. Plan of care

Planning to ensure the permanency of the child's care and relationships shall begin as soon as he is admitted. The family's welfare worker, the child's welfare worker, the child and the foster parents shall develop a preliminary care permanency plan. The first goal following admission is very often to return the child to his parents. A plan for unsupervised or supervised contacts with his family might be prepared to maintain the child's links with his family.

The child's plan of care must clearly identify all his needs in services particular to his cultural identity. The plan of care must indicate details on how the child welfare worker and parents will accommodate the child's cultural needs such as race, language, heritage, sexual orientation and religion. It is the parents' duty to recognize each child's uniqueness and the child welfare worker has the responsibility to diligently document this in the plan of care.

The permanency plan must be discussed with the supervisor and approved by him. It is detailed in the plan of care in the "Residential/Permanency Plan" section.

Following this, the permanency plan must be reviewed and adjusted to take the child's new life circumstances into account whenever his plan of care undergoes a statutory review.

3. Permanency Planning Committee

A Permanency Planning Committee shall develop a permanency plan as soon as the child's file is revised.

The child's welfare worker must submit a request for revision to the Chairman of the Permanency Committee, who is a Supervisor for the agency Valoris.

The committee shall include the agency's lawyers, the adoption worker and the director of the service involved. It is strongly recommended that the biological family, foster parents or any other significant person actively contribute or participate in the permanency plan. The family's welfare worker, the child's welfare worker and the supervisors concerned must be present to discuss the file. Other persons such as the integration officer, the visits' supervisor and the child may also be invited.

The committee chairman shall document the permanency plan approved by the committee; this report must be available in the child's electronic file. The welfare worker responsible for this file is responsible to transmit the document to all parties concerned.

The child's welfare worker, in consultation with his supervisor and in collaboration with the child and his parents, shall be responsible for updating the permanency plan as it was approved. If a significant change occurs in the child's life circumstances that would require a major revision of the permanency plan, the child welfare worker must return to the committee to have that revision authorized, if applicable.

Definitions, annexes and references

Definition

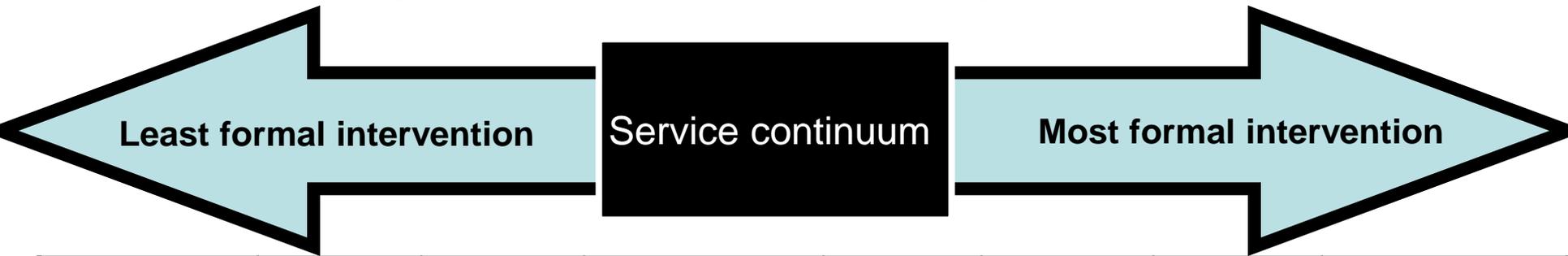
Parents: Includes biological parents, adoptive parents, step-mother, step-father or all other persons responsible for the child previous to Valoris' involvement.

Annex

- Permanency continuum illustration

S-208 Permanency Plan
Annex

**Partnership = optimum intervention
in the planification of permanency**



Admission Prevention (TCA)	Kinship (out of care)	Kinship (in care)	Care in accordance to traditions	Legal Custody	Foster Family	Adoption	Youth Independence
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