



CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI  
FAMILY COURT DIVISION  
625 EAST 26<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64108-2719

**POLICY & PROCEDURE**

Issued by: Director of Office of the Guardian ad Litem – Family Court

Topic: **Policy No. 1030-23 – Recommendation for Permanency Goal Other Than Reunification**

Effective Date: July 7, 2015

New:                      Revised:                      Rescinds:                      Reviewed: June 1, 2018

**POLICY:**

“Permanency is achieved when children are reunited with their families without further court supervision, are adopted, or are placed with permanent guardians.” Court Performance Measures in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases, Key Measures. *Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*, December 2008.

The Office of the Guardian ad Litem (OGAL) will recommend a permanency other than reunification with a parent when reunification is no longer in the best interest of the child, keeping in mind the statutory guidelines.

The Adoption and Safe Families act requires that states move to termination of parental rights if a child has been in foster care 15 out of the last 22 months unless a finding of compelling reasons has been found by the Court. In addition the Court must hold a Permanency Hearing every twelve (12) months.

Permanency other than reunification can include, but is not limited to, adoption or guardianship.

When considering the recommendation of a permanency goal other than reunification, the staff of the Office of the Guardian ad Litem shall consider the following:

1. Length of time in care
2. Participation, or lack of participation, of parents in services
3. Success of parents in services
4. Bonding with parents
5. Opportunity for the siblings to be together

6. Bonding with placement provider or chosen resource
7. Relationship with extended family members
8. Whether parents can meet any special needs, such as education, therapy, medical, of the child,
9. Availability of appropriate resource
10. Consistency and appropriateness of visitation with parents and extended family
11. Wishes of the child
12. Appropriateness of parents for contact after permanency
13. Availability/necessity of continued services for the child
14. Availability of subsidy

Although Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement and Independent Living are not considered “permanency” goals by the federal government, there will be occasions where OGAL staff will make those recommendations because we believe that is the best chance for success that the young person has. When determining whether to make that recommendation OGAL staff shall consider:

- a. Age of young person
- b. Maturity of young person, i.e. ability to care for and provide basic needs for self
- c. Availability of appropriate placement
- d. Education opportunities for young person
- e. Young person’s wishes
- f. Ongoing relationship with family members
- g. Outside support, including financial and emotional, for the young person

REVISIONS: The proponent for this policy is the Director of the Office of Guardian ad Litem. If you have recommended changes or want to report errors, send your suggestions to the Director of Guardian ad Litem, Family Justice Center, 625 East 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO 64108.

REVIEW DATE: July 1, 2019



June 1, 2018

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Kathy J. Rodgers  
Director of Office of the Guardian ad Litem-Family Court

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Date

APPLICABLE STANDARDS:

None

CC: Deputy Court Administrator – Family Court Division