



TEMPORARY MANAGING CONSERVATORSHIP (TMC)

Child is placed out of the home.

Note: CPS prioritizes placements with family, as long as the family member is appropriate, safe, and able to meet the child's needs. CPS also prioritizes placing siblings together unless there is a safety concern that cannot be mitigated if placed together. Additionally, CPS will place the child in the least-restrictive placement available to meet the child's needs.

Child can be placed in a substitute placement:

- **Relative/Kinship Placement:** A home study is conducted on a relative or friend of the family (fictive kin)
- **Foster Care:** Foster home, therapeutic foster home, emergency shelter, General Residential Operation (GRO), Residential Treatment Center (RTC), etc.
- **Other:** Supervised Independent Living (SIL), psychiatric hospital, juvenile detention facility, etc.

GOALS OF WORKING WITH THE FAMILY

The goal is to ensure the safety and well-being of the child while they are in substitute care and to help connect the family to resources to help them mitigate the reasons for CPS involvement. The end result will hopefully be a safe return of the child to the home without recurrence of abuse or neglect in the future.

Throughout the case, the Conservatorship (CVS) caseworker visits with the parent and child face-to-face on at least a monthly basis in their respective homes to maintain a relationship with the family, to assess safety and risk, to stay up to date with information, to ensure their needs are being met, and evaluate the family's progress in services. The CVS caseworker continues to refer the parent and child to services as needs arise. The CVS caseworker also keeps the family and caregivers apprised of upcoming Court hearings, meetings, and conferences to discuss the case in order to give everyone an opportunity to discuss any updates, issues, and progress, or ask any questions.

PERMANENCY GOALS

The CVS caseworker continues meeting with the child face-to-face monthly in the placement to assess safety and risk, to stay up to date with information, and to ensure needs are being met. The CVS caseworker continue to refer the child to services as needs arise. The CVS caseworker also keeps the child and caregivers apprised of upcoming Court hearings, meetings, and conferences to discuss the case in order to give everyone an opportunity to discuss any updates, issues, progress, or ask any questions. The CVS caseworker also discusses progress and barriers towards the permanency goal.

Permanency goals could include:

- Family Reunification
- Relative Adoption
- Unrelated Adoption
- Relative PMC (with PCA)
- Relative PMC (without PCA)
- Unrelated PMC
- Independent Living
- Community Care

SAFETY ASSESSMENT

Conservatorship caseworkers assess safety throughout the entire life of a case. The Conservatorship caseworker more formally utilizes the Safety Assessment tool:

- Prior to recommending the Court dismiss the case

RISK REASSESSMENT

Conservatorship caseworkers assess risk throughout the entire life of a case. There are times when they more formally utilize the Risk Reassessment tool. The Risk Reassessment tool takes items from the original Risk Assessment and combines them with current information fathered in the Risk Reassessment to help the caseworker evaluate the family's progress towards the goals set in the Family Plan of Service (FPOS).

The Conservatorship caseworker conducts a Risk Reassessment:

- At least every 90 days after the children have returned home to the parents from whom they were removed.
- Sooner if:
 - There is a Court review.
 - There are new circumstances.
 - There is new information that could impact risk.

PERMANENT MANAGING CONSERVATORSHIP (PMC) TO RELATIVES

While this situation occurs, families are encouraged to pursue the Permanency Care Assistance (PCA) program before being granted PMC. The PCA program requires that relatives or fictive kinship (close family friends) become licensed foster parents for at least 6 months before they sign a PCA agreement. The Court then transfers PMC from the Department to them. Benefits include health care and monthly financial assistance, as well as the college tuition waiver. Specifically for youth who are between the ages of 16 and 18 when the PCA agreement is signed, the relative or fictive kin can continue to receive assistance until the youth is 21 as long as the educational and/or employment eligibility requirements are being met by the youth. Youth can also apply for educational training vouchers (ETVs). Essentially, this option allows children/youth to receive the same benefits of staying in care and/or adoption, yet while being able to obtain permanency.

RETURN AND MONITOR PROCESS

A Return and Monitor can last for up to 6 months.

Prior to a Return and Monitor, the CVS caseworker assesses the quality of visitation, risk, and safety. The CVS caseworker utilizes the Reunification Assessment tool in order to help in the decision making process when making recommendations on readiness for family reunification. The CVS caseworker completes this assessment prior to each permanency hearing.

The CVS caseworker completes the Family Strengths and Needs Assessment (FSNA) and Family Reunification Family Plan of Service (FPOS) within 30 days of the child returning home. This includes any ongoing services necessary to maintain a healthy and safe environment and ensure protective parenting. The CVS caseworker also completes a Risk Assessment every 90 days while the child is home and a Safety Assessment if there are any changes in household members.

The CVS caseworker visits the child and parent face-to-face in the home each week for the first eight weeks and at least monthly thereafter. More frequent visitation may be necessary based on the needs of the family and risk present. During these visits, the CVS caseworker assesses risk and safety, evaluates the progress on the Family Reunification FPOS, and ensures the child's needs are being met.

Note: If at any point during the Return and Monitor it is deemed unsafe for the child to remain in home, the child will be removed from the home, placed back into substitute care, and the Court will revoke the Return and Monitor.

See back of "How an Investigation is Performed" flowchart for more information on what is included in the Safety and Risk Assessments.