



The Importance of Youth Voice in Case Planning

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Youth Bill of Rights



According to the Youth Bill of Rights: Youth have the right to be involved in the development of their own case plan, including placement decisions, and planning for permanency. This involvement includes, but is not limited to, the development of case plan elements related to placement and gender affirming health care, with consideration of the child's gender identity. If the child is an Indian child, the case plan shall include protecting the essential tribal relations and best interests of the Indian child by assisting the child in establishing, developing, and maintaining political, cultural, and social relationships with the child's Indian tribe and Indian community. (38) To review the child's own case plan and plan for permanent placement if the child is 10 years of age or older, and to receive information about their out-of-home placement and case plan, including being told of changes to the plan.

Why is youth voice so important in case planning?

- The youth is the expert on their life
- Show of respect and that their ideas are valued
- Gives a sense of empowerment
- Youth who are actively involved in making decisions/case planning have better outcomes.
- Can prevent unnecessary placement change or family separation



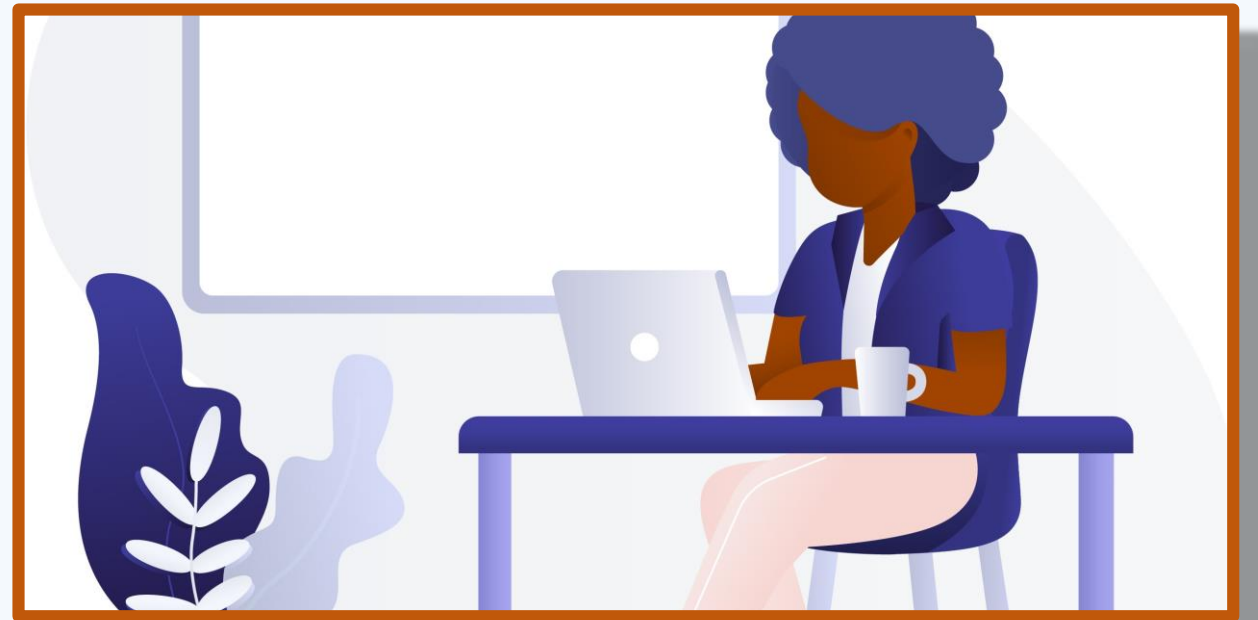
What needs to be in a Case Plan?

- Case Plan Participants
- Case Plan Goal
- Family Assessment Updates
- Current Condition of Family & Child
- Client Objectives (Parent & Child)
- Client Responsibilities (Parent & Child)
- Visitation Schedule
- Agency Responsibilities
- Placement Services & Concurrent Planning
- Social Worker Contacts



Case Planning

- A Case Plan must be developed within a maximum of 60 days of the initial removal of the child OR of the initial response, OR the date of the Disposition Hearing, whichever occurs first. The timeframe was extended from the previous requirement of 30 days to 60 days to allow for more engagement and to ensure input from the family.
- The Case Plan must be updated as the needs of the child and family for services dictate and should utilize the following tools for development:
 - SDM
 - CANS
 - Petition
 - Child Welfare History & Pattern
 - Parent Interview
 - Child Interview
 - Harm & Danger Statement
 - Safety Goal
 - Family Strengths



Service objectives should be measurable and behaviorally based!

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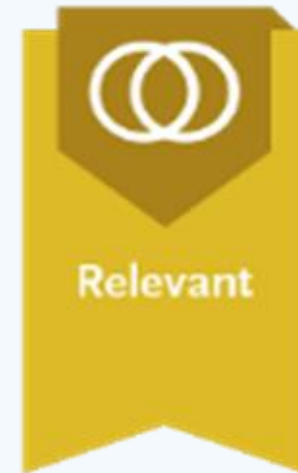
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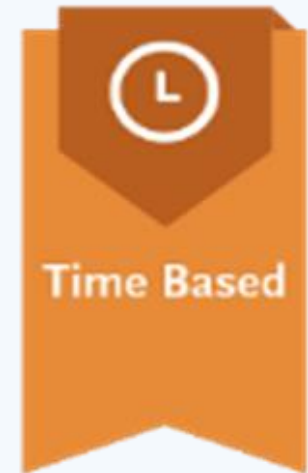
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Client Road Map

Communication with the Client

- Understanding How to Alleviate the Department's Concerns & Next Steps:
 - What services do they think they need?
 - What are their concerns?
 - What are the Department's recommendations for services?



Measuring Success

Measureable Objectives

- No More Than 4-5 Objectives (3 for Children)
 - Goal is to not overwhelm the client
- Behaviorally Based:
 - How do you/they see the change
 - How do you know they acquired a desired skill.
 - Where are they in the Stages of Change

(This should be developed and discussed with the youth and family so that they understand and will know when they are meeting goals).

