Family Partnerships of Central Florida
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PROCEDURE

Series:	**Operating Procedures**	**COA:** **CFOP: 170-7, Ch 12**
Procedure Name:	Reunification and Post Placement Supervision	
Procedure Number:	OP-1038	
Reviewed Date:	07/13/12	
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Effective Date:	07/01/08	
Applicable to:	All FPOCF Staff and Contract Providers	

SUBJECT: Reunification

PURPOSE: To establish the steps to be followed by Family Partnerships of Central Florida in the decision to recommend reunification in court ordered out-of-home placements. This is applicable to all cases of out-of-home placement where the goal is reunification. The reunification decision evaluates the extent to which the circumstances and behavior identified in the Conditions for Return can be met and if safety of the child(ren) can currently be managed using an in-home Safety Plan. The court may reunite a child with either parent, regardless of the custody arrangement at the time of the child's placement. Reasonable efforts require that any child with an out-of-home Safety Plan should be reunified as promptly as is safe and appropriate. Reunification is active as of the date the child returns to the home with an in-home Safety Plan.

PROCEDURE: This operating procedure applies to all Family Partnerships of Central Florida staff and to all cases of out-of-home placement where the goal is reunification or maintain and strengthen.

References

Florida Statutes: Sections 39.01, Ch. 65, 39.604, 39.521(e)(9)

Florida Administrative Code: 65C-30.014 (2), 65C-30.007 F.A.C

Definitions:

Disabled Child - A child whose physical, intellectual, or emotional condition causes him or her to be vulnerable insofar as the ability to defend against or alert others that abuse is occurring.

Family Functioning Assessment- On-going and Progress Updates - The written and documented evaluation of the family in regard to the need for services. Such assessment requires the collaboration of the care manager with the child, if developmentally appropriate, the child's family members, the caregiver, the guardian ad litem, or guardian ad litem program, if appointed and no specific guardian has been assigned and all relevant service providers. The omission of any of these individuals or entities may result in a faulty assessment and poor decision-making.

Reunification Services – "Reunification services" means social services and other supportive and rehabilitative services provided to the parent of the child, to the child, and, where appropriate, to the relative placement, non-relative placement, or foster parents of the child, for the purpose of enabling a child who has been placed in out-of-home care to safely return to his or her parent at the earliest possible time. The health and safety of the child shall be the paramount goal of social services and other supportive and rehabilitative services. The services shall promote the child's need for physical, mental, and emotional health and a safe, stable, living environment, shall promote family autonomy, and shall strengthen family life whenever possible.

1. General Requirements

a. When the court has awarded legal custody of a child to Family Partnerships of Central Florida or other temporary custodian, the court must explicitly approve release of the child from custody. Release of the child without such approval may result in contempt action by the court and disciplinary action by Family Partnerships of Central Florida.

b. If the court orders Family Partnerships of Central Florida to return a child (and there is no judicial stay of the order), the child must be returned immediately, regardless of the provisions of the reunification policy.

c. The case manager will clearly communicate and discuss the Conditions for Return to everyone involved in the case including the parent(s)/legal guardian(s), the court, attorneys, guardian ad litem, child (if appropriate), Tribe(s), etc., through regular court reports, case plan reviews, discussions, and other forms of communication.

d. The case manager is responsible for a constant and intense level of effort to achieve reunification through the following activities:

(1) Assist the family with meeting the Conditions for Return.
(2) Support the frequency and quality of family time that provides the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) with opportunities to demonstrate progress toward enhancing protective capacities.
(3) Know when the Conditions for Return have been met.
(4) Take actions to achieve reunification with the development of an appropriate in-home Safety Plan.

2. Visitation/Transition from Placement to Reunification

a. The single most significant factor for successful reunification is parent-child contact, e.g., letters, calls, visits. Regular, frequent contact that begins immediately after removal is necessary to:

(1) Continue the child's attachment to the parent, legal custodian, and siblings to minimize the effects of separation and loss;
(2) Provide parents an opportunity to maintain and strengthen constructive interaction with the child;
(3) Afford parents the opportunity to make realistic decisions concerning their parental abilities; and,
(4) Provide staff with a basis to assess the capacity for improved parenting and the return of the child.

b. During initial visitations, the care manager, or other third party responsible, must be present to:

(1) Assist the parent and child in working toward reunification.
(2) Assist all parties in minimizing the stress inherent in parental visiting.
(3) Observe and document progress.

c. If the court has prohibited or restricted visitation, the case plan must detail specific steps that, if successful, will lead to a recommendation by Family Partnerships of Central Florida for visitation to begin or become less restricted. Demonstrated progress toward remedying the situation that led to removal will result in FPOCF recommending less restrictive and/or increased visitation.

d. Family Partnerships of Central Florida or designee shall work to ensure that visits take place in a setting conducive to parent-child interaction, e.g., a playground, park, home of the child's family, home of the foster parent, or a visitation center.

e. Visits must, when possible, include activities in which a parent normally assumes responsibility, such as meetings with the school staff, doctor, etc.

f. Visitation must be continually assessed (and documented in the file) to:

(1) Ensure that Family Partnerships of Central Florida or designee has supported and facilitated visitation by arranging/providing transportation when necessary and minimizing any other obstacles noted.
(2) Determine whether the parent-child interactions are achieving the desired results as listed under paragraph 2a. If significant concerns are noted, the counselor and supervisor must determine if modification of the case plan or assessment of parenting skills which may include assessment by a therapeutic professional are required.
(3) Determine when it is appropriate to recommend that the court decrease or withdraw the requirement to supervise visitation.
(4) Determine whether it is safe and appropriate to proceed with increased frequency and duration of visitation.

g. In situations where visitation is not occurring regularly, or is detrimental to the child, it will be necessary to collaborate with the parents and other involved persons or entities to determine what, if any, assistance Family Partnerships of Central Florida can offer.

h. In situations where Family Partnerships of Central Florida's efforts to implement visitation or improve constructive effect of the visits fail, the goal of reunification must be reconsidered.

3. Criteria for Conditions for Return/ Reunification

a. The case manager should proceed with reunification planning when the following criteria for an in-home Safety Plan have been met:

(1) The parents/legal guardians are willing for an in-home safety plan to be developed and implemented and have demonstrated that they will cooperate with all identified safety service providers.

(2) Willing to accept and cooperate refers to the most basic level of agreement to allow a Safety Plan to be implemented in the home and to participate according to agreed assignments.
(3) Caregivers do not have to agree that a Safety Plan is the right thing nor are they required to like the plan; plans are not negotiable in regard to the effectuation of the plan.

b. The home environment is calm and consistent enough for an in-home safety plan to be implemented and for Safety Plan service providers to be in the home safely.

(1) Calm and consistent refers to the environment, its routine, how constant and consistent it is, and its predictability to be the same from day-to-day.
(2) The environment must accommodate plans, schedules, and Safety Management and other services and be non-threatening to those participating in the Safety Plan.

c. Safety plan services are available at a sufficient level and to the degree necessary in order to manage the way in which impending danger is manifested in the home.

(1) There are two focuses in this question, first being the examination of how an Impending Danger Threat exists and operates within a family and secondly the availability of resources.
(2) It must be clear how Impending Danger Threats are manifested and operating in the family before a determination can be made regarding the type of Safety Plan required (i.e., In-Home Safety Plan, Out-of-Home Safety Plan or a combination of both). This emphasizes the significance of the Safety Analysis Question; it can be concluded that additional information collection and study is necessary if confidence doesn't exist concerning the understanding of the manifestation of Impending Danger Threats.
(3) Impending Danger: This emphasizes the importance of the duration of an Impending Danger Threat. Consideration should be given about whether a long-standing Impending Danger Threat is more deeply embedded in individual and family functioning, a more habitual way of behaving. Reasonably long-standing Impending Danger Threats could be harder to control and manage. The intensity of an Impending Danger Threat should be factored in. This means that duration of an Impending Danger Threat should be qualified by how intense it is operating. An Impending Danger Threat that is at onset but highly intense also could be difficult to control and manage.
(4) The frequency of occurrence is directly related to defining when Safety Plan Services and activities have to be in place. For instance, if an Impending Danger Threat occurs daily, a safety plan service must be available daily.
(5) The more predictable an Impending Danger Threat is with respect to when it will occur and with what intensity, the more precise a Safety Plan can be. For instance, if violence occurs in the home every pay day and the dad is drunk and highly aggressive, safety management must include someone in the home at that time that can deal with such a person or must separate the father if able or the children from the home during that time. Impending Danger Threats that are not predictable are more difficult to control and manage since it is not clear when they will occur and perhaps with what intensity. Unpredictable Impending Danger Threats suggest

conservative planning with higher level of effort or methods for monitoring conditions and circumstances associated with an Impending Danger Threat becoming active.

(6) Are there specific times during the day, evening, night, etc. that might require "special attention" due to the way in which the Impending Danger Threat is occurring? This question is related to frequency and predictability but reduces the judgment about occurrence down to exact times that are of special concern when an Impending Danger Threat is active and/or when no protective resource is in the home. A sufficient Safety Plan assures that these special times are fully managed.

(7) Do Impending Danger Threats prevent a caregiver from adequately functioning in primary roles (i.e., individual life management and parenting)? This question qualifies the capacity of the caregiver; it does not necessarily result in a conclusion obviating an In-Home Safety Plan. It does provide a judgment about how much can be expected of a caregiver in whatever Safety Plan option is selected.

(8) Safety management services are dependent upon the identified impending danger threat.

(9) Available refers to safety management services that exist in sufficient amount.

(10) Access to safety management services refers to time and location. Accessible services are those that are close enough to the family to be utilized and can be implemented immediately.

d. An in-home safety plan and the use of in-home safety services can sufficiently manage impending danger without the results of scheduled professional evaluations.

(1) This question is concerned with specific knowledge that is needed to understand Impending Danger Threats, caregiver capacity or behavior or family functioning specifically related to Impending Danger Threats. The point here is the absence of such information obviates the ability to know what is required to manage threats.

(2) Evaluations that are concerned with treatment or general information gathering (not specific to Impending Danger Threats) can occur in tandem with In-Home Safety Plans.

(3) It must be clear how Impending Danger Threats are manifested and operating in the family before a determination can be made regarding the type of Safety Plan required (i.e., In-Home Safety Plan, Out-of-Home Safety Plan or a combination of both).

(4) This emphasizes the significance of the First Safety Planning Analysis Question; it can be concluded that additional information collection and study is necessary if confidence doesn't exist concerning the understanding of the manifestation of Impending Danger Threats.

(5) If indications are that Impending Danger Threats are constant and totally incapacitating with respect to caregiver functioning, then an Out-of-Home Safety Plan is suggested. This calls for a judgment about the extent of the incapacitation.

e. The parents/legal guardians have a physical location in which to implement an in-home safety plan.

(1) This pertains to the most basic level of housing including a location the parents own or are renting, the home of a family member or friend, a certified domestic violence center or treatment center that will allow the children to be reunified.

(2) This criterion is focused on the physical aspect of the residence/domicile.

(3) The home should not present a physical safety threat-such as unsanitary household conditions.

(4) This criterion requires that there is an assessment of the living conditions-the residence.

f. In addition to the in-home safety analysis noted above, the below must also be completed to recommend reunification:

(1) Updated local criminal history checks have been completed on the parent(s)/legal guardian(s), and Florida and local criminal history checks, including required fingerprint submission for any household members 18 years of age or older. The analysis of these results must be captured in the Progress Update.
(2) A Progress Update has been completed and contains documentation of criteria related to the in-home safety analysis of this operating procedure.
(3) A Supervisor Consultation has occurred.

4. Factors That Warrant Special Consideration

a. If a service provider is used to assist in/evaluate the family's readiness for reunification, staff, in collaboration with the service provider, are to ensure that the child's safety is the primary issue.

b. If the maltreatment(s) is egregious in nature and the person(s) allegedly responsible for the maltreatment would have access to the child and have not acknowledged their responsibility for previous harm, or it is not determined who in the home was responsible for the maltreatment, reunification is not appropriate.

c. In cases of egregious maltreatment in which the person(s) allegedly responsible have acknowledged their responsibility, any safety factors that may continue to be present following treatment/rehabilitation must be carefully assessed during the Reunification Staffing described below. The treatment professional(s) who were involved in the rehabilitation of the alleged perpetrator must be invited to participate in the Reunification Staffing. If they are unable to participate, their reports must be available for review during the Reunification Staffing.

d. Families in which there is a history of chronically neglectful and abusive behaviors usually do not benefit from short-term intensive treatment services. Decisions concerning success of treatment/rehabilitation of these families and subsequent reunification should be reviewed carefully with the safety of the child foremost in the decision process. The treatment professional(s) involved in rehabilitation must be invited to participate in the FTC. If they are unable to participate, their reports must be available for review during the staffing.

5. Safety Planning Conference or Reunification Staffing

a. Planning occurs at a safety planning conference/Reunification MDT with the parent(s)/legal guardian(s), treatment providers, foster parents and any safety plan providers. If a treatment provider is unable to attend in person or by other means, their input is gathered prior to the conference. A family team meeting may be used for the purpose of planning reunification:
(1) All case file information including all conflicting information.

(2) Review of the Progress Update to discuss updated protective capacity and in home safety plan analysis.
(3) Development of the in-home safety plan.

Determination as to whether the child in care has any behaviors that pose a threat to self or others that need to be addressed. Determination as to what other actions and supports are necessary to transition the child to his/her parent(s)/legal guardian(s) care. Identification of supports and/or services necessary to assure a timely, smooth, and successful adjustment for the child and family after the transition occurs

b. When the case plan indicates short, unsupervised day visits with the person responsible for the abuse or neglect, this decision to commence these visits can occur with concurrence from the care manager and immediate supervisor in accordance with court orders. This must be documented in the case record.

c. The results, both positive and negative, of all visits occurring under this section must be documented in the case file and presented at the staffing.

6. Reunification Staffing

If the court orders Family Partnerships of Central Florida to return a child (and there is no judicial stay of the order), the child must be returned immediately, regardless of the provisions of the reunification policy.

a. Immediate notification of the court ordered reunification must be provided orally to the supervisor and CMA Program Manager and/or Director. Follow-up written notification must be completed via the Critical Incident Reporting policy by noon of the next business day of the child's reunification if said reunification was against the recommendation of the Case Management Team.

b. To ensure there is adequate opportunity for the child and youth to transition from the current caregiver in a healthy and supportive manner- when the child resides in licensed out of home care immediate notification shall be provided to the family foster home or group home placement. When the child resides in non-licensed out of home care, immediate notification shall be provided to the relative or non-relative placement.

c. Upon receipt of this information, a reunification staffing shall be conducted within five business days and a referral for an FTC shall be completed.

d. All service providers involved with the family will be notified of the change in placement and will be invited to participate in any relevant staffing's to modify services provided to the family.

If indicated the family will be assigned a Family Reunification Specialist to assist with the transition and provide support during the Post Placement Supervision process in collaboration with the assigned Case Manager.

e. CLS will be consulted to evaluate an appeal of the reunification. If the reunification is ordered by the General Master, the care manager, will not waive the 10 days waiting period and request a hearing in front of the Judge. During this period, the child will remain in their current placement and the Reunification Staffing or FTC will be convened.

7. Implementation of Reunification

a. The case manager determines that based on the in-home Safety Plan developed at the reunification planning conference:

(1) Safety services are available and accessible at the level of effort required to assure safety in the home.
(2) Safety service providers are committed to participating in the in-home Safety Plan.
(3) The in-home Safety Plan will provide the proper level of intrusiveness and level of effort to manage safety threats.
(4) The child, the caregivers, other family members and any treatment providers are prepared for reunification.
i. For the child, this includes agreement that the child's well-being, physical, mental and emotional health will not be endangered.
ii. For the parent, this includes agreement as to how the parent(s) will address the child's well-being, physical, mental and emotional needs.

b. If a case is court supervised, the case manager will conduct a staffing with CLS to prepare an appropriate pleading to the court for reunification. The court is required to review the conditions for return and determine whether the circumstances that caused the out-of-home placement and issues subsequently identified have been remedied to the extent that the return of the child to the home with an in-home Safety Plan prepared or approved by the Department or Community-Based Care Lead Agency (CBC) will not be detrimental to the child's safety, well-being, and physical, mental, and emotional health.

c. The case manager must implement the child's transition and reunification as ordered by the court. Action should begin to transition and reunify based upon the order of the court (verbal or written).

8. Post-Placement Supervision

The court is required to exercise a minimum of 6-months continuing jurisdiction after a child is returned home. When Family Partnerships of Central Florida recommends and the court orders post-placement supervision, the CMA will confirm that the ongoing Safety Plan is sufficient within five business days after the child is reunified. Per s. 39.521(7), F.S., post placement supervision in court-supervised cases is provided for no less than six (6) months after reunification with each parent or legal custodian from whom the child was removed. The case manager actively monitors and modifies the in-home Safety Plan in accordance with paragraphs 11-2 and 11-3 of this operating procedure. The case manager continually assesses the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) progress in achieving change in accordance with CFOP 170-9, Chapter 6, Evaluating Family Progress. e. The case manager should terminate a Safety Plan in accordance with Chapter 13 of this operating procedure when the Safety Plan is no longer necessary.

a. Updating computer systems to indicate the change from substitute care to post-placement supervision.

b. Developing wraparound post-placement plan with child, parents, other household members or other support persons identified by the parents or directed by the court that are to

participate in the plan. The post placement plan should include a relapse prevention/safety plan in cases that involve substance misuse.

(1) If the child is reunified with parents, the plan will include services and supports the family needs to maintain or increase caregiver protective capacities and resources that enabled reunification.
(2) If the child is placed temporarily with relatives or non-relatives, the plan will include both parental reunification services and services needed to maintain the child in the temporary relative placement.
(3) While there is no specific statutory requirement for supervision after reunification from relative placement, Family Partnerships of Central Florida is requiring the same procedures be followed in these cases unless there is justification for not doing so. Such justification must be documented in the case record.

c. Filing the plan with the court (except in non-judicial in-home services cases).

(1) The case plan for post-placement supervision shall be completed, filed with the court and served on all parties at least 72 hours prior to the court hearing in which reunification is recommended. If the court returns custody to the parent contrary to the department or contracted service provider's recommendation, the post-placement supervision case shall be completed, filed with court and served on all parties within fourteen working days of the court hearing. The effective date is the date custody changed to the parent as outlined in Rule 65C-30.014 (2) F.A.C.
(2) At a minimum, the case plan for post-placement supervision shall include:
    a. An assessment of family strengths, protective capacities, safety and risk with recommendations that aim to alleviate possible risks;
    b. Services and activities necessary to remedy any of the initial problems that remain;
    c. Routine health care as well as follow-up care for physical health, mental health, or substance abuse service needs that have been identified;
    d. Specific provisions regarding visitation by the Services Worker in accordance with Rule 65C-30.007 F.A.C. Frequency for Services Worker contacts shall be based on the conditions in the home, needs of the child, level of safety and risk to the child or the level of cooperation of the parents or relatives warrant additional safeguards.

d. For children under age six, weekly visits by the assigned staff or agency for the first three months and every other week thereafter are required until the child reaches age six. For children ages six and over, visitation must be twice a month for the first three months and monthly thereafter. These levels of visitation can be reduced, unless ordered by the court, by the FTC or Reunification Staffing Committee after careful analysis of such factors as attendance at day care, presence of other protective adults, and involvement of other social service programs. The Reunification Staffing Committee may also determine if visits by other individuals such as guardian ad litem or others may substitute for the required visits where there is some agreed upon mechanism or procedure for guaranteeing that these visits by the other individuals occur. Justification for any variation must be documented in the child's case file.

(1) Whenever possible, the visits must occur in the home. All visits are to be face-to face with the child. The purpose of the visits is:

a. Observing and documenting the child's condition, appearance and development;
b. Observing and documenting child/parent interaction;
c. Monitoring the child's safety and well-being;
d. Continuing to implement the case plan objectives; and,
e. Supporting the family in their reintegration.

(2) If a parent or person responsible will not allow observation of the child, for whatever reason, the person making the home visit shall immediately contact their supervisor for guidance as to possible law enforcement involvement to gain access to or remove the child.

e. If not already enrolled in a licensed childcare program or licensed early education program, children age five and under shall be assessed by the care manager regarding the need for childcare services to help ensure their safety following reunification and a recommendation made to the court as outlined in Rule 65C-30.014(5) F.A.C.

(1) If additional oversight of the child is determined by the care manager to be needed, intensive in-home services may be recommended to the court as an alternative to a licensed early education or a child-care program or licensed education program.
(2) If the child is between birth and school age and already enrolled in a licensed early education or a child-care program or has this service court ordered following reunification, the requirements provided in Section 39.604, F.S., shall be followed.

f. Following six months of post-placement supervision, Family Partnerships of Central Florida must collaborate with the parent, child, and other involved persons and entities included in the post-placement plan to assess status of the case through an FTC and/or staffing the court must be advised in writing. When the FTC and/or staffing determine post-placement supervision continues beyond six months, a written assessment of the status must be submitted to the court at least every six months and justification for continued supervision provided.
(1) If previously identified or new risk factors are present to the extent that continued supervision is warranted, these risk factors must be specified with a recommendation for continued supervision; and,
(2) A case plan update or amendment negotiated with the family to address the risk factors must be submitted to the court along with the recommendation for continued supervision; or,
(3) When the assessment indicates that case plan requirements have been met and any remaining risk factors have been satisfactorily resolved, CLS must file a motion to terminate supervision, upon the recommendation of Family Partnerships of Central Florida.
(4) The court order terminating supervision must be received before supervision is terminated or the case is closed.
(5) The court order terminating supervision must be filed in the child's case record and computer systems must be updated to indicate case closure.

g. Prior to case closure and as post placement supervision comes to an end the need for further community support services for the family should be assessed and put in place if needed. Potential community supports could include but are not limited:

(1) Social Connections
(2) Housing Supports if family has a history of homelessness
(3) Healthy Start or Healthy Families
(4) 211 for additional service linkage
(5) Targeted Case Management
(6) Relapse Support
(7) Ongoing Counseling Support
(8) Ongoing Mentoring Services
(9) Additional Prevention Services
(10) Food Banks

9. Interstate Placement of Children Pre-placement planning with a parent or relative who lives in another state must include a request for a home study through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, a clear understanding that the child may be reunified with the parent or custodian from whom the child was removed, and that the out-of-state person must agree to cooperate in return of the child to Florida for reunification purposes. Also, the other state's social services contact and out-of-state person with whom placement is being made must understand that parent/child contact may be limited to telephone calls and letters with few or no face-to-face visits.

a. Reunification of children (returning children to Brevard, Seminole, Orange or Osceola counties) who have been legally placed into another state through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children requires careful planning to ensure that all aspects of inter-family communication, coordination with the local social services worker in the other state (who is supervising the child for Family Partnerships of Central Florida) and travel arrangements take place.

b. Florida's court jurisdiction over the child remains in effect during a legal placement in the other state, through the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children, and is legally sufficient to cause the return of the child for the purpose of reunification. However, if the parent or relative in the other state will not cooperate with Family Partnerships of Central Florida in the return of the child, then the court may have to assert jurisdiction by issuing a pick-up order. Any such pick-up order should also direct the Sheriff to put the pick-up order on the Criminal Information Computer (CIC) System. This necessary precaution will afford some protection to a care manager who may be sent to pick up the child in another state or enable the care manager to obtain law enforcement assistance in the other state with the pick-up.

c. Written progress reports by the supervising social worker in the other state are essential for judicial reviews. Accordingly, social worker to social worker telephone contact is necessary, and notification of court dates will ensure the availability of reports in time for court hearings. Direct transmission of reports is encouraged as long as a copy is also provided to the central Interstate Compact Office in each state. Frequency of progress reports may be determined in case staffing or directed by court order but must occur quarterly at a minimum.

d. Children who have been placed, or allowed to be placed, into another state by Family Partnerships of Central Florida, or a Florida court, without the approval of the other state's Interstate Compact Office lose protection of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children law. This means that the Florida court cannot exercise its jurisdiction over the child through the Interstate Compact law. It also means a social service worker in the other state will have no legal authority to represent Family Partnerships of Central Florida in supervising

the child under the Interstate Compact law. An illegal child placement could seriously delay reunification, or even prevent it, especially if the out-of-state parent or relative applies for legal custody in the other state's court.

10. Supervisor Consultation and Approval.

a. The supervisor is responsible for case consultation focused on the family's progress to meet Conditions for Return and the information in the assessment supports the child safely returning to the parent(s)/legal guardian(s).
b. Prior to reunification, the case management supervisor has conducted a consultation with a program manager or their designee and they concur that a reunification should occur.
c. The supervisor should consider the case manager's need for consultation in the following areas:
(1) The case manager's consistent monitoring and assessment of family progress in meeting the Conditions for Return. Is the child welfare professional focusing on behavioral change by caregivers, or compliance?
(2) Is the case manager providing reasonable methods of supporting the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) ability to achieve Conditions for Return?
(3) If there are differences of opinion regarding the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) level of progress, does the child welfare professional attempt to reconcile those differences?
(4) Is the child welfare professional open to considering a lack of progress based on system issues, such as: (a) A Safety Plan that is inadequately designed? (b) Service providers whose services are not adequate for the interventions needed?
(5) Is the child welfare professional assessing the behaviors and conditions that relate to the central issues of the danger threats and gaps in protective capacities?
(6) Is there a thoughtful distinction between all the central problems being resolved and enough of a change in caregiver conditions or capacities that an in-home Safety Plan can be implemented?
(7) Does the evaluation carried out by the child welfare professional reflect critical thinking and teamwork?

11. FSFN Documentation.

a. The child welfare professional or supervisor will record supervisory case consultations for reunification using the supervisory case consultation functionality in FSFN.
b. The case manager will use the Progress Update and Judicial Review in FSFN to update the safety analysis and document the evaluation of family progress.
c. The child's placement and removal episode will be end-dated and the child's current living arrangement documented in FSFN when the child returns to the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) home.
d. The new in-home Safety Plan signed by all parties will be uploaded into FSFN to the Safety Plan page prior to the child's date of reunification.

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

PHILIP J. SCARPELLI
President and Chief Executive Officer
Family Partnerships of Central Florida

APPROVAL DATE: 10/22/2025