

HOW A CASE MOVES FROM REMOVAL TO PERMANENCY

YES

LEGEND

Learn more on the reverse side



Case is closed



CASE IS REFERRED TO INVESTIGATIONS OR FAMILY-BASED SAFETY SERVICES (FBSS)

PERMANENCY

HEARINGS

The Court hears the

progress towards reaching

the permanency goal.

STOP

YES

IS THE **CHILD IN** IMMEDIATE **DANGER?**

CPS PETITIONS THE COURT FOR AN EMERGENCY REMOVAL

Ex Parte Hearing (Day 1)

CHILD CAN REMAIN SAFELY IN THEIR CURRENT PLACEMENT

CPS PETITIONS THE COURT FOR A NON-EMERGENCY REMOVAL

The Court hears from both CPS and the parents in order to make a determination on the merits of custody.

DOES THE COURT DEEM THE REMOVAL **NECESSARY?**

> **COURT DENIES** REMOVAL

> > STOP

Case is closed.

Refer the family to Family-Based Safety Services (FBSS).

YES

If the case originated from an emergency removal an Adversary Hearing is held within 14 days of removal. The Court hears from both CPS and the parents in order to make a determination on the merits of custody to determine if the Court upholds the removal.

CONSERVATORSHIP (CVS) CASEWORKER IS ASSIGNED TO THE CASE AND WORKS WITH THE FAMILY TO MITIGATE THE CONCERNS THAT **LED TO CPS' INVOLVEMENT**

IS THE **CHILD IN IMMEDIATE DANGER?**

STOP have been mitigated.

Case is closed. Reunification is successful and concerns

Case is closed.

Permanency goal

is achieved.

FINAL HEARING

determine if the parent is able to provide the

child with a safe home. A Final Hearing can

occur at different points in time depending on

the circumstances in a case. However, unless a

6 month extension is granted under

be reached at the one-year mark of a case.

During this hearing, evidence is presented to **WITHIN**

extraordinary circumstances, final orders must removal

EVERY

6

MANAGING CONSERVATORSHIP (PMC) OF THE CHILD

CASEWORKER

CONTINUES WORKING

TOWARDS CHILD'S

PERMANENCY GOAL

Some cases result in termination of parental rights and some do not. In cases where parental rights are terminated, the child is eligible for adoption.

DEPARTMENT IS GIVEN PERMANENT

RELATIVE IS GIVEN PERMANENT MANAGING

Case is closed. Permanency goal is achieved.

CASEWORKER COLLABORATIVELY WORKS WITH THE FAMILY THROUGH THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE CASE AND EVALUATES PROGRESS

+ at least

PERMANENCY HEARINGS

CONSERVATORSHIP (PMC)

OF THE CHILD

The Court hears the progress on the service plans and continues to assess if the child can safely return home to the parent.

WITHIN **STATUS** HEARING 180

Caseworker files FPOS and Visitation Plans and they are reviewed with the Court.

60

WITHIN

of the remova

THE STATE IS GRANTED TEMPORARY

CUSTODY OF THE CHILD = TEMPORARY

MANAGING CONSERVATORSHIP (TMC)

CASEWORKER AND FAMILY COLLABORATIVELY CREATE

CHILD PLAN OF SERVICE (CPOS)

Services that will be provided to the child throughout the duration of the case to meet the child's needs.

WITHIN

FAMILY PLAN OF SERVICE (FPOS)

Services that will be provided to the parent throughout the duration of the case to address the concerns that led to the Department's involvement.

VISITATION PLAN

Schedule for face-to-face, virtual, written, or phone interaction and communication throughout the duration of the case.



CONTINUES WORKING WITH FAMILY TOWARDS REUNIFICATION

CASEWORKER

THE RETURN AND MONITOR IS REVOKED

Family is given 6 more months to resolve the Department's concerns and child is placed back into substitute care.

Case is closed. Reunification is successful and concerns have been mitigated

YES

IS THE **CHILD IN IMMEDIATE DANGER?**

COURT ENTERS INTO A RETURN AND MONITOR

of the

CASEWORKER COMPLETES SAFETY AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

ARE THERE ONGOING RISKS THREATENING CHILD SAFETY IF THEY RETURNED

HOME?

THE CHILD IS

DEEMED UNSAFE

TO RETURN HOME

YES

NOTE: CPS can approve for the child to return

to the care of the parent if deemed safe to do so while the parent continues to work services.

This flowchart reflects CPS' legacy system. Texas is in the process of moving towards Community-Based Care (CBC), which gradually transfers substitute care and case management services across the state of Texas from the state to private nonprofit contractors. The state is divided into different catchment areas in which a single contractor known as a Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC) ensures children in substitute care are provided with a placement and services to meet their needs. The vision for CBC is one in which children and their families experience better outcomes. In regions where CBC has taken over case management duties, the caseworker for the SSCC performs all the duties of a traditional Conservatorship caseworker. In regions where the state is still performing case management duties, the Conservatorship (CVS) caseworker still performs these duties.



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 discu ss 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 PMC
- Relative Adoption
- Unrelated Adoption
- Relative PMC (with PCA)
- Relative PMC (without PCA)
- Unrelated PMC
- · Independent Living
- Community Care

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.

SAFETY ASSESMENT

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.

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