

Big Bend Community Based Care Policy & Procedure

Series:	600: Legal Issues	
Policy Name:	Expediting Permanency for Abandoned Infants	
Policy Number:	601	
Origination Date:	03/09/2009	Revised: Board Meeting of 12/13/2018
Regulation:	63.0423, F.S.	

Policy

It is the policy of Big Bend Community Based Care, Inc. (BBCBC), to ensure that infants (age birth to 1) who are abandoned have the opportunity for expedited permanency resolution.

Procedure

- A. In cases where a child has been abandoned, DCF will immediately begin a diligent search to locate a relative or parent who may not have been responsible for the abandonment and who may be a resource for adoption or other permanent placement of the infant.
- B. A CTS staffing will occur pursuant to the BBCBC/CPI Working Agreement.
- C. Upon acceptance, the case will be assigned to a DCM.
- D. Within sixty (60) days of taking the abandoned child into custody, a parent or relative not responsible for the abandonment comes forward and is willing to provide a permanent home; a home study will be completed by the DCM to assess suitability for placement.
- E. Upon acceptance of the case following the CTS staffing the DCM will initiate a diligent search to notify and to obtain consent from a parent whose identity is known but whose location is unknown. If a parent is identified and located, notice of the hearing on the petition for termination of parental rights shall be provided.
- F. **Birth Records.** As soon as sufficient information is available, records including a certified birth certificate and medial records must be requested.
- G. **Case Plan.**
 - 1. A case plan for expedited permanency will be developed for the infant and filed with the court within thirty (30) days. It can occur in sixty (60) days ONLY if the court approves an extension.
 - 2. A staffing to assist in development of the case plan must be held and will include:

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- a. Children's Legal Service;
 - b. The child's caregiver; and
 - c. All others involved in the child's welfare and best interest.
3. The following statements apply to the case plan:
 - a. The act of abandoning an infant meets the definition of egregious abuse; therefore, parents responsible for abandonment do not have to be offered a reunification case plan.
 - b. The goal of the case plan will be Adoption.
 - c. The time frame for accomplishing a finalized adoption for the infant must be the shortest time possible to allow for completion of the diligent search, homestudy, if applicable, and the necessary legal procedures.