

Determination of Permanency Roundtables (PRT) Cases

PRTs are time intensive for County and State staff; as a result a PRT should never be considered the first option for a case consultation unless it meets the criteria outlined in this policy. Prior to considering a PRT, the caseworker should work with the SPC and determine if there are other options to expedite permanence. A Permanency Roundtable is one of many different types of consultations that can occur with the State Permanency Consultant (SPC) and therefore not every case that is rated below “good” requires a PRT.

The purpose of the PRTs is to focus on cases that have been in out of home care (OHC) for 15 out of the last 22 months with no significant movement towards a legal permanency option of reunification, guardianship or adoption. Children that have been placed in out of home care less than 15 out of the last 22 months are not appropriate and shall not be considered for PRTs.

Once an SPC and the County have determined which cases fit the PRT criteria of being in out of home care for 15 out of the last 22 months or longer and have a legal permanency status rating below “good”, they must determine which of these cases should be *prioritized* for a PRT.

In order to narrow the list of cases that should be prioritized for a PRT, start with the cases that have been in out of home care for 15 out of the last 22 months or longer and are rated at “poor;” then from this group narrow the list to youth age 14 years or older. Once the group of cases with youth age 14 or older has been established, narrow the list further to children who have had three or more placements. Continue to narrow the group by choosing those cases with children placed in a restrictive setting. With this last group, choose the cases with sibling groups. This is the first group of cases to receive a PRT.

After, completing a PRT on the group that consists of a sibling group move back through the list of cases focusing next on the group that had consisted of children placed in restrictive settings, then three or more placements, then age 14 years of age or older, and finally all children rated at “poor” that have been in out of home care 15 out of the last 22 months or longer. This last group could include children of any age that may or may not have a sibling, have been in less than 3 placements and have not been in a restrictive setting at any point. After the PRT process has been completed on all cases that have been in out of home care 15 out of the last 22 months or longer and rated at “poor” use the same methodology and focus on cases rated at “uncertain” and then “fair.”

Different counties will have varying amounts of cases that should be considered for a PRT. It is expected that not all counties will have cases that meet the criteria for a PRT, and therefore should not be conducting PRTs if they do not have cases that meet eligibility requirements. SPCs and counties should then focus on completing action steps and rating cases quarterly to determine which cases need to be scheduled for additional PRTs. All cases that received an initial PRT and continue to be rated below “good” are required to receive another PRT within five months of the previous PRT until the rating is at “good” or above.

County Supervisors in collaboration with the SPC have the ability to request a case be included in the monthly PRT schedule that is not considered a priority case; however the case must continue to meet the criteria of the child being in out of home care for 15 out of the last 22 months or longer and rated below “good.”

Permanency Roundtable
Case Priority

To prioritize cases for a Permanency Roundtable, follow this pyramid down to complete PRTs for those cases first. Then begin to move back up the pyramid to complete PRTs meeting fewer prioritization criteria:

