

(1) returning the child to the child's parent or guardian, unless the Department is the guardian;

(2) placing the child with relatives to whom adoption, guardianship, or care and custody, in descending order of priority, are planned to be granted;

(3) adoption in the following descending order of priority:

(i) by a current foster parent with whom the child has resided continually for at least the 12 months prior to developing the permanent plan or for a sufficient length of time to have established positive relationships and family ties; or

(ii) by another approved adoptive family;

(4) an independent living arrangement; or

(5) in exceptional situations as defined by rule or regulation, long-term foster care.

(d) (1) The local department shall:

(i) prepare the permanency plan in writing within 60 days of the date the child comes into care;

(ii) if the child is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, furnish the plan to the child's parents, the child or the child's counsel, and to the juvenile court; and

(iii) maintain the plan in the agency's case record.

(2) The local department shall amend the plan promptly as necessary in light of the child's situation and any court orders which affect the child.

(e) Unless a child has received a review from the local board of review of foster care under § 5-544 of Part IV of this subtitle, the local department shall perform an administrative review every 6 months to determine the success of the efforts to meet the goals set out in the permanency plan or the agreement with the parents or guardians in voluntary placements.

(f) Foster parents who wish to contest the agency's decision to place the child with another adoptive family have the right to a timely hearing.

(g) [(1)] The Administration shall adopt [rules and] regulations that[, ]: