

(2) IN DETERMINING THE REASONABLE EFFORTS TO BE MADE AND IN MAKING THE REASONABLE EFFORTS DESCRIBED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE CHILD'S SAFETY AND HEALTH SHALL BE THE PARAMOUNT PRIMARY CONCERN.

(3) REASONABLE EFFORTS TO PLACE A CHILD FOR ADOPTION OR WITH A LEGAL GUARDIAN MAY BE MADE CONCURRENTLY WITH THE REASONABLE EFFORTS DESCRIBED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(4) IF CONTINUATION OF REASONABLE EFFORTS TO REUNIFY THE CHILD WITH THE CHILD'S PARENTS OR GUARDIAN IS DETERMINED TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE PERMANENCY PLAN FOR THE CHILD, REASONABLE EFFORTS SHALL BE MADE TO PLACE THE CHILD IN A TIMELY MANNER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PERMANENCY PLAN AND TO COMPLETE THE STEPS TO FINALIZE THE PERMANENT PLACEMENT OF THE CHILD.

[(c)] (E) (1) In developing a permanency plan for a child [under foster care] IN AN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT, the local department of social services shall give primary consideration to the best interests of the child. The local department shall consider the following factors in determining the permanency plan that is in the best interests of the child:

(I) THE CHILD'S ABILITY TO BE SAFE AND HEALTHY IN THE HOME OF THE CHILD'S PARENT;

[(i)] (II) the child's attachment and emotional ties to the child's natural parents and siblings;

[(ii)] (III) the child's emotional attachment to the child's current caregiver and the caregiver's family;

[(iii)] (IV) the length of time the child has resided with the current caregiver;

[(iv)] (V) the potential emotional, developmental, and educational harm to the child if moved from the child's current placement; and

[(v)] (VI) the potential harm to the child by remaining in State custody for an excessive period of time.

(2) To the extent consistent with the best interests of the child [under foster care] IN AN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT, the local department shall consider the following permanency plans, in descending order of priority:

(i) returning the child to the child's parent or guardian, unless the department is the guardian;

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

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