

5-544.

The goals of each local board are:

(1) SUBJECT TO § 5-545 OF THIS SUBTITLE, as to minor children who have resided in [foster care] OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT under the jurisdiction of the local department for more than 6 months:

(i) to review the cases every 6 months to determine what efforts have been made to acquire permanent and stable placement for these children; and

(ii) to encourage and facilitate the return of each of these children to the child's parent or, on determining that return of a child to the child's parent is not in the best interests of the child, to encourage placement of the child with the child's relatives, provided the placement has legal status, or if neither measure is in the best interests of the child, to encourage efforts at adoption of the child;

(2) to encourage all possible efforts for permanent ~~{foster care}~~ OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT OR KINSHIP CARE or guardianship for minor children for whom return to a parent or adoption is not feasible; and

(3) to report to the juvenile OR FAMILY court on the status of efforts to secure permanent homes for minor children.

5-545.

(A) EACH LOCAL BOARD SHALL REVIEW CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL PLANS APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD AND THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

[(a)](B) Each local board shall report in writing to the juvenile OR FAMILY court and the local department on each minor child whose case is reviewed by the local board.

[(b)](C) In the report, the local board may recommend, as being in the best interest of the minor child:

(1) that the child be returned to the parent or legal guardian;

(2) that the child continue to be placed outside the home and that the present placement plan is appropriate to the child's needs;

(3) that the child continue to be placed outside the home, but that the present placement plan is inappropriate to the child's needs; or

(4) that proceedings be initiated to terminate the rights of the parent as to the child so that the child may be eligible for adoption.

5-546.

Each public or private agency or institution that provides or arranges [foster care] OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT for minor children under the jurisdiction of the local department shall give to the State Board and local boards any information that the boards [need] REQUEST to perform their duties.