



**Section 9 – Concurrent and Long-Term Planning**

**Standard 9.5**

# Long-Term Planning for Children and Youth

Long-Term Planning for children and youth in the Permanent Custody of the Director of Child and Family Services is a process part of case planning that supports children and youth to live in families with nurturing parent(s)/care provider(s)/caregiver(s) who provide the opportunity to establish lifelong relationships, as well as facilitate the child or youth’s meaningful connectedness to positive, nurturing communities and social groups. A key component of Long-Term Planning is also to ensure children and youth maintain connections to their family, culture, community and language. Long-Term Planning should be completed with the child/youth by the Child Protection Worker or Designate (Authorized Person, Supervisor/Manager).

## REFERENCE

- Federal Government’s Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, Youth and Families*
- NWT Child and Family Services Act Sections 2, 3, 6.1, 19(7), 28 (1.1)*
- Child and Family Services Standard 6.12 Case Review*
- Child and Family Services Standard 7.1, Placement Priorities for Children and Youth*
- Child and Family Services Standard 10.15 Commitment to Indigenous Children, Youth, and Families*
- Child and Family Services Standard 10.16 Requirement to provide Notice before taking a Significant Measure in relation to an Indigenous child or youth*

## PURPOSE

- Long-Term planning must support the best interests of the child/youth.
- The main purpose of Long-Term Planning is to develop a plan to promote the child/youth’s attachment and emotional ties to family members when they are separated from their parent(s)/care provider(s)/caregiver(s).
- Long-Term Planning needs to be inclusive of meaningful and appropriate visitation and access (if applicable) and defining the role of the foster caregiver in promoting attachment and emotional ties through supporting ongoing communication with family members.
- Long-Term Planning further encourages collaboration and engagement with Indigenous and Non-Indigenous children, youth, and families, while recognizing the right to maintain a connection to their family, culture and community.

Date: December 14<sup>th</sup> 2020

  
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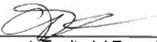
### PROCEDURE

#### Responsibilities

##### Child Protection Worker/Designate:

- Arrange a Long-Term Planning meeting within **35 calendar days** of receiving a Permanent Custody Order (PCO) for a child/youth. It should be noted that the development of the **Long-Term Plan** may require more than one meeting.
- Consider the individuals listed below as potential participants in the development of a **Long-Term Plan**. The invitation of individuals should only be extended if their presence is deemed to be in the best interest of the child/youth.
  - Supervisor/Manager;
  - Child or youth (as developmentally appropriate; and/or in a manner that is responsive to their developmental understanding);
  - Parent(s)/care provider(s)/caregiver(s) (if appropriate);
  - Extended family or close friends of the family;
  - Proposed alternate caregiver(s);
  - Foster caregiver(s) or residential staff person(s);
  - Indigenous Governing Body(s) (IGB) (per Notice of Significant Measure);
  - Applicable Aboriginal organization (AAO);
  - Other cultural organizations (if applicable)
  - Other individuals or service providers identified as a support to the family.
- Submit the draft **Long-Term Plan** to the Supervisor/Manager for review and feedback.
- Ensure the **Long-Term Plan** that is developed for the child/youth meets the criteria for the best interests of the child/youth as outlined in **Standard 10.15 Commitment to Indigenous Children, Youth and Families**.
- Consult with the AAO and/or IGB(s) and/or other cultural organizations on the long-term placement options identified during the Long-Term Planning meeting for the child/youth receiving services through a PCO.
- Placement-related decisions should be made in accordance with **Standard 7.1 Placement Priorities for children and youth** except for matters involving guardianship or a young adult transitioning to independent living.

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- Any new or change in placement, application to obtain, extend, vary, or withdraw a court order is defined as a Significant Measure. As per **Standard 10.16 Requirement to Provide Notice Before Taking a Significant Measure in Relation to an Indigenous Child or Youth**, ensure the IGB and parent/care provider(s) are formally notified of any change to an out-of-home placement AND/OR change/continuation of status by completing and providing both parties with **Form 10.16.1 Notice of Significant Measure to Parent, Care Provider and Indigenous Governing Body**.
- Collaborate and engage with the IGB (and/or AAO or other cultural organization on consent) on programs and services for the child/youth as part of the Long-Term Planning process. This collaboration and engagement can, and should, extend past any opportunities identified under **An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, Youth and Families** or **Child and Family Services Act** as they pertain to supporting children, youth, and families.
- As part of the long-term planning process, ensure **Form 9.1.3 Genogram** is completed or updated for the child/youth.
  - Aim to gather information about at least three generations: the young person's generation, their parents and their grandparents.
  - Include significant others who lived with or cared for the family.
  - Start with drawing the family structure, who is in the family, in which generations, how they are connected, birth/marriage, deaths etc.
  - You may ask them to tell you a bit about each person and how they offer support to the child/youth or family.
  - As the child or youth tells you about family members and relationships, make a note alongside the name.
  - Ask about relationships between family members
  - Ask about family values, beliefs and traditions.
  - Try to explore patterns and themes.
- As part of the Long-Term Planning process, ensure **Form 9.1.2 Cultural Support Plan** is completed or updated for each child/youth. **Form 9.1.2 Cultural Support Plan** must detail the child/youth's cultural, linguistic, religious, and spiritual upbringing and heritage. Short-term and long-term opportunities for the child/youth to maintain and/or strengthen this connection to culture throughout childhood and adulthood must be considered. **Form 9.1.3 Genogram** should be used to inform **Form 9.1.2 Cultural Support** to assess any potential extended family placements.
- Consult with the Supervisor/Manager to discuss **Form 9.5.1 Long-Term Plan** and **Form 9.1.2**

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**Cultural Support Plan**, including the placement options identified.

- Place a copy of the approved forms on the child/youth's hard file and in MatrixNT as well as provide a copy of the documents to the following individuals:
  - the child/youth (if developmentally appropriate);
  - Extended family caregiver/provisional family caregiver /regular foster caregiver(s) or residential staff person(s); and
  - IGB and/or AAO and/or other cultural organizations (if applicable).
- In cases where the PCO is due to expire AND the youth will be transitioning out of the care of the Director of Child and Family Services, **Form 9.2.1 Transition Plan** must be completed at least 6 months before the expiration of the PCO. This **Transition Plan** should be completed for youth who obtain the age of 16 years and do not require supports and services after the age of 16 years old OR young adults who reach the age majority (19 years old), regardless of if they will enter into an Extended Support Service Agreement (ESSA).

### Review of the Long-Term Plan:

- Review the **Long-Term Plan** every six (6) months. The review should involve the individuals from the initial planning meeting and/or others as required and focus on improving supports to the child/youth if needed.
- Update the **Cultural Plan** as required (ie. new information is obtained).
- If an Indigenous child or youth is not placed with their parent(s)/care provider(s)/caregiver(s) or other family members, re-assess the placement plan and options for family placement as per **Standard 7.1 Placement Priorities for children and youth**. Every effort should be made to promote the child/youth's attachment and emotional ties with their family, community, and culture, in accordance with the child/youth's best interest as outlined in the **Federal Act**.
- Inform the Supervisor/Manager if there are no changes to the **Long-Term Plan** and document decision in MatrixNT as a **Case Note**.
  - If there are changes to the **Long-Term Plan**, the Child Protection Worker/Designate will forward the amended **Plan** to the Supervisor/Manager for review and approval.
  - Place a copy of the approved **Long-Term Plan** on the child/youth's hard file and in MatrixNT and provide a copy of the **Long-Term Plan** to those involved in the planning process.

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- Document all related actions and decisions in MatrixNT and place a copy of the updated **Long-Term Plan** on the child/youth’s hard file.

### Supervisor/Manager:

- Consult with the Child Protection Worker/Designate throughout the Long-Term Planning process.
- Review **Form 9.5.1 Long-Term Plan** and **Form 9.1.2 Cultural Support Plan** with the Child Protection Worker/Designate to ensure they are in the best interests of the child/youth. The Supervisor/Manager will also request the Child Protection Worker/Designate document any decision in MatrixNT as a **Case Note**.
- If approved, provide Supervisor/Manager signature on document. Provide the approved Long-Term to the Child Protection Worker/Designate and ensure these are appropriately documented on MatrixNT and the hard file.
- Review the **Long-Term Plan** with the Child Protection Worker/Designate every six (6) months.

### NTHSSA Deputy Director of Practice (DDP):

- Offer consultation and support throughout the Long-Term Planning process as required.
- Ensure that all Supervisors/Managers are aware of and inform Child Protection Worker/Designates of the importance of the Federal Government’s **An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families** and its impact on practice.
- Conduct quarterly reviews to ensure compliance to the procedures within the Standard and report to the Departmental Director/Deputy Director as requested.

### DHSS Director of Child and Family Services or Deputy Director:

- Receive Quality Reviews from the Deputy Director of Practice or Designate.
- Audit compliance related to this Standard as per the audit cycle or more frequently as required.

## FORMS

- Form 5.3.1 Case Plan Report

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- Form 6.12.1 Case Review
- Form 9.2.1 Transition Plan
- Form 9.5.1 Long-Term Plan
- Form 9.1.2 Cultural Support Plan
- Form 9.1.3 Genogram
- Form 10.16.1 Notice of Significant Measure to Parent, Care Provider and Indigenous Governing Body

### TOOLS

- Tool 9.1.1 Genogram Code Key
- Tool 9.2.1 Elements of a Transition Plan
- Tool 10.16.1 Notice of Significant Measures Notice Flowchart
- Tool 10.16.2 Significant Measures Notice Schedule
- 10.16.3 Notice to Parent and Care Provider Brochure

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