



Essential Questions to Ask at Each Hearing to Promote Permanency



1. *What measures have been taken to prevent the placement of the child/children in foster care or to decrease the child/children's time in foster care?*
2. *What are the specific safety issues preventing the child/children from being returned home today?*
3. *What is the collaboratively developed plan to return the child/children safely home?*
4. *What efforts has the Department undertaken to place the child/children with a fit and willing relative?*
5. *How are the Department, parents and others supporting stability (placement, school and otherwise) for the child/children?*
6. *What other efforts must be made to support the child/children and promote timely permanency in the event that the safety issues cannot be ameliorated?*

