CARD B · ONE OF THREE

Kin, Agency Clocks & Older Youth

The Maryland authority beyond § 3-823 – kin, agency deadlines, and youth 16 and older

OPEN THIS FOR a kin placement question, an agency deadline, or a youth 16 or older.

PURPOSE CLAUSE

CJP § 3-802(a)(7): to achieve a timely, permanent placement for the child consistent with the child's best interests. § 3-802(b): this subtitle shall be construed liberally to effectuate these purposes.

I ONE CASE, TWO CLOCK OWNERS

REMOVAL = DAY 0	60 DAYS	11 MONTHS	EVERY 6 MONTHS	15 OF THE MOST RECENT 22 MONTHS	24 MONTHS
COURT *CJP*	—	**Initial permanency planning hearing** *§ 3-823(b)(1)(i)*	**Review the permanency plan** *§ 3-823(h)*	—	**Every reasonable effort toward permanent placement** *§ 3-823(h)(5)*
DEPARTMENT *FL · COMAR · SSA*	**Written case plan, including concurrent permanency plans** *COMAR 07.02.11.13*	**FTDM required before this hearing** *SSA/CW 21-02*	**FTDM 3 months before a review when DSS will recommend a plan change** *SSA/CW 21-02*	**TPR filing rule, subject to exceptions** *FL § 5-525.1(b), (c)*	—

RUNNING THE WHOLE CASE: time-limited reunification services provided at the same time as a concurrently developed permanency plan — FL § 5-525(c)(1), (2). Concurrent planning means concrete steps toward both plans — COMAR 07.02.11.03(16); agency practice from case opening — SSA/CW 13-02.

Court clocks and department clocks run simultaneously and are owned by different actors. Ask which clock is about to expire, and who must act before it does.

II OLDER YOUTH: THE SEQUENCE AFTER 16

GATE 1 ▸ **Rule out, before APPLA**	GATE 2 ▸ **APPLA findings, every review**	GATE 3 ▸ **At 18, make it concrete**
› Threshold: youth age 16 or older. › Recent, thorough family finding confirmed. › Other permanency options ruled out, including child-specific recruitment and interjurisdictional matching. › Compelling reason documented that the other plans are not in the youth's best interests.	› Compelling reason — § 3-823(f). › Placement follows the reasonable and prudent parent standard — § 3-823(h)(3)(i). › Regular, ongoing opportunities for age-appropriate activities — § 3-823(h)(3)(ii). › Child consulted about those opportunities — § 3-823(h)(3)(iii). › Checklist form: Card A, findings.	**CJP § 3-816.1(b)(2)(iii):** › Health insurance that continues post-emancipation. › Benefits eligibility screening and application assistance. › Housing stable for at least 12 months post-emancipation. › Sufficient income for independent living.

SILA BRANCH *COMAR 07.02.10.11(B), (C)*

Youth 16 to 21; enrolled and attending school or vocational training, or working at least 80 hours per month; agrees to the service-agreement requirements; needs help transitioning to self-sufficiency; able to contribute to cost from earned or unearned income. Youth applies to the local department.

POLICY SHELF *older youth*

Ready by 21 / Independent Living domains: Well-Being and Civic Engagement; Safe and Stable Housing; Permanent and Supportive Connections; Financial Empowerment; Education and Employment. Policies: SSA/CW 25-10 Youth Transition Planning; SSA/CW 16-10 APPLA.

III Kin First and Family Finding

FL § 5-534	Effective [redacted] Preference for youth in out-of-home care to live with relatives, including family by choice.
COMAR 07.02.09 · SSA 24-06	Kinship Program Standards, effective [redacted] Kinship Care Licensing Standards, effective [redacted]
Federal rule, [redacted]	Children's Bureau rule encouraging title IV-E agencies to adopt separate licensing or approval standards for kinship foster homes.
SSA/CW 15-28 · Family finding	Initiated when the child enters care and continuing throughout out-of-home care. Binti Family Finding & Engagement is the agency tool.

KIN AND FAMILY-FINDING QUESTIONS TO ASK

- Has every identified adult relative been notified of the child's entry into care?
- Has placement with a relative for adoption or guardianship been assessed ahead of non-relative options?
- If kin cannot take placement, how is the department supporting their continued role in the child's life?
- What supports does the kinship caregiver need, and what has been put in place?

Cross-references: the relative-placement preference and the court-versus-department split are on Card A.

IV Judicial Action Tools

1	2	3	4	5
More frequent review hearings, when appropriate.	Unsupervised visitation as a response to demonstrated progress.	Hold the local department accountable for reasonable efforts to finalize permanency.	Concurrent planning with concrete steps toward both plans.	Decline agreements that preserve the status quo without a compelling reason.

A finding of reasonable efforts requires evidence, not the department's assertion — see Card A.

Statutes and policies online: CJP § 3-823 · CJP § 3-816.1 · FL § 5-525 · FL § 5-525.1 · SSA/CW 21-02 · SSA/CW 13-02 · SSA/CW 16-10 APPLA · SSA/CW 25-10 · Ready by 21 benchmarks

Every item on this card is taught in the [redacted] 2026 presentation. Companion to Card A. Draft for final faculty confirmation; verify that citations, effective dates, and policy numbers reflect current Maryland law and current DHS/SSA policy before print.