QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE · TWO OF THREE

Findings on the Record

What the court states on the record at every permanency planning and review hearing.

STATUS

Sent for coordinator approval January 2026. Reskinned and cleaned up since. Confirm citations against current Maryland law before printing.

I REQUIRED FINDINGS

Permanency planning and review hearings · CJP § 3-823(h)

☐	The permanency plan that is in the best interest of the child	§ 3-823(h)(2)(i)
☐	Whether reasonable efforts have been made to finalize the plan in effect	§ 3-823(h)(2)(ii)
☐	If reunification is the plan: the services provided and the progress made	FL § 5-525(c)
☐	Whether continued out-of-home placement remains necessary and appropriate	§ 3-823(h)(2)
☐	The projected date for return home, adoption, or guardianship	§ 3-823(h)(2)(v)
☐	If the plan is not reunification: the documented compelling reason	§ 3-823(f)
☐	For youth 16 and older: that the youth was consulted on the plan	§ 3-823(j)(1)
☐	For APPLA: the compelling reason other options are not appropriate	§ 3-823(f)

II BEST INTERESTS FACTORS

FL § 5-525(f)(1)

I	The child's ability to be safe and healthy in the home of a parent
II	The child's attachment and emotional ties to the natural parents and siblings
III	The child's emotional attachment to the current caregiver and the caregiver's family
IV	The length of time the child has resided with the current caregiver
V	The potential emotional, developmental, and educational harm of a move
VI	The potential harm of remaining in State custody for an excessive period

NOTE
The factors are the framework for the best-interest finding in Section I. State the ones the record supports.

ALSO IN THIS SET: 1. Timeline and Key Hearings 3. Reasonable Efforts