QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE · THREE OF THREE

Reasonable Efforts

Questions that build the record before the finding is made.

STATUS

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

I QUESTIONS FOR THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT

CJP § 3-823(h)(2)(ii)

WHEN THE PLAN IS REUNIFICATION

01	What specific services have been offered to address the conditions that led to removal?
02	Has the parent engaged with those services, and what is the evidence of participation?
03	What progress has the parent made toward completing the service agreement?
04	What barriers to reunification remain, and what is the department doing about them?
05	Is there a concurrent plan, and what efforts are being made toward it at the same time?

CONCURRENT PLANNING

06	What is the alternative permanency plan if reunification is unsuccessful?
07	What family finding efforts have been made to identify permanent resources?
08	Has the current placement been assessed as a potential permanent resource?
09	What concrete steps have been taken toward both plans?

COMAR 07.02.11.03(16): concurrent planning requires concrete steps toward both plans.

II WHEN FINALIZING A NON-REUNIFICATION PLAN

10	What is the compelling reason reunification is no longer in the child's best interest?
11	Has a TPR petition been filed? If not, why not, and when will it be filed?
12	What efforts have been made to finalize adoption or guardianship with the current placement?
13	Is the prospective family committed, and what supports do they need?

ON THE RECORD

A finding of reasonable efforts rests on evidence in the record. Ask these questions before the finding is made.

AUTHORITY

Sources cited: CJP §§ 3-815, 3-817, 3-819, 3-823; FL §§ 5-525, 5-525.1; COMAR 07.02.11; Md. Rules 11-112, 11-114, 11-115, 11-501.

ALSO IN THIS SET: 1. Timeline and Key Hearings 2. Findings on the Record