

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1879

Introduced by Assembly Member McCarty

February 10, 2016

An act to amend Sections 361.5, 366, 366.21, 366.22, 366.25, 366.26, 366.3, 706.5, 706.6, 727.2, 727.3, 11400, 16501, and 16501.1 of, and to add Section 371 to, the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to foster youth.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1879, as introduced, McCarty. Foster youth: permanency.

Existing law provides that a minor may be removed from the physical custody of his or her parents if there is a substantial danger to the physical health of the child or the child is suffering severe emotional damage and there are no reasonable means to protect the child without removing him or her. Additionally, a minor who is in wardship proceedings may be removed from the physical custody of his or her parents if the court finds that one of several facts is present, including that the parent or guardian has failed to provide proper maintenance, training, and education for the minor. When a minor is removed from the physical custody of his or her parents in dependency or wardship proceedings, existing law generally requires that reunification services be provided to the minor and his or her family. Existing law also provides for periodic status review hearings, at which the court is required to return a minor to the physical custody of his or her parents unless the court makes specified findings.

Existing law requires, if a minor is not returned to the physical custody of his or her parents, the juvenile court to devise a permanency plan, including, among others things, an order that the child be placed for

adoption, an order that a legal guardian be appointed, or an order that the child remain in another planned permanent living arrangement if the child is 16 years of age or older. Existing law requires, prior to ordering a dependent child to remain in another planned permanent living arrangement as his or her permanent plan, the court to make a finding that the child is not a proper subject for adoption and has no one willing to accept legal guardianship.

This bill would require the court to order the provision of child-centered specialized permanency services, as defined, to a child who does not have a permanent plan of adoption and who is not placed with a fit and willing relative, or who is 16 years of age or older and placed in another planned permanent living arrangement. The bill would also authorize the court to order these services for a nonminor dependent in another planned permanent living arrangement. The bill would require the case plan for the child to identify the child-centered specialized permanency services to be provided, and would require the court, to review the child-centered specialized permanency services that have been provided to the child, as specified.

The bill would also require, in any case in which the court has ordered a dependent child or a ward of the juvenile court placed for adoption or has appointed a relative or nonrelative legal guardian, the social worker or probation officer to provide the prospective adoptive family or the guardian or guardians specified mental health treatment information. By expanding the duties of social workers and probation officers with regard to the provision of child welfare services, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (1) As of September 30, 2014, there were 62,545 California
4 children living in the foster care system, with 16,561 children, or

1 approximately 26 percent, in foster care for over three years, and
2 9,780 children, or approximately 16 percent, in foster care for over
3 five years. Adult outcomes are often poor for the children who
4 emancipate from foster care without a permanent family. Within
5 two years of exiting the foster care system, approximately 50
6 percent of former foster youth will be homeless, in prison,
7 victimized, or dead.

8 (2) Families committing to adoption or guardianship of children
9 in foster care may face challenges unique to the adoption or
10 guardianship experience that result from the trauma of the child's
11 adverse childhood experiences. These challenges can create stress
12 that puts the adoption or guardianship at risk of disruption and
13 potentially results in the child's reentry into the foster care system.

14 (3) Provisions of the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and
15 Strengthening Families Act (Public Law 113-183) address the need
16 to enhance efforts to improve permanency outcomes for older
17 children in care by eliminating the use of other planned permanent
18 living arrangements as a permanent plan for children under 16
19 years of age.

20 (4) The new federal law also requires documentation of intensive
21 and ongoing efforts to achieve permanence for youth with a case
22 plan for another planned permanent living arrangement, and adds
23 additional case plan and case plan review system requirements for
24 children 16 years of age and older.

25 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this act to
26 improve permanency outcomes and stability for older children in
27 foster care and to bring California into compliance with provisions
28 of the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening
29 Families Act by doing the following:

30 (1) Improving the stability of adoptive and guardianship families
31 by requiring the State Department of Social Services, county
32 adoption agencies, county child welfare agencies, and licensed
33 adoption agencies to provide potential adoptive families and
34 guardians information, in writing, regarding the importance of
35 working with mental health providers that have specialized
36 adoption or permanency clinical training and experience if the
37 family needs clinical support, and a description of the desirable
38 clinical expertise the family should look for when choosing an
39 adoption- or permanency-competent mental health professional.

(2) Improving permanency outcomes for children in foster care by requiring child-centered, specialized permanency services prior to deeming a child “unlikely to be adopted,” “not a proper subject for adoption,” or “having no one willing to take legal guardianship,” and prior to, and after, making a permanency plan for another planned permanent living arrangement or ordering a child into long-term foster care.

SEC. 2. Section 361.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

361.5. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), or when the parent has voluntarily relinquished the child and the relinquishment has been filed with the State Department of Social Services, or upon the establishment of an order of guardianship pursuant to Section 360, or when a court adjudicates a petition under Section 329 to modify the court’s jurisdiction from delinquency jurisdiction to dependency jurisdiction pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 607.2 and the parents or guardian of the ward have had reunification services terminated under the delinquency jurisdiction, whenever a child is removed from a parent’s or guardian’s custody, the juvenile court shall order the social worker to provide child welfare services to the child and the child’s mother and statutorily presumed father or guardians. Upon a finding and declaration of paternity by the juvenile court or proof of a prior declaration of paternity by any court of competent jurisdiction, the juvenile court may order services for the child and the biological father, if the court determines that the services will benefit the child.

(1) Family reunification services, when provided, shall be provided as follows:

(A) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (C), for a child who, on the date of initial removal from the physical custody of his or her parent or guardian, was three years of age or older, court-ordered services shall be provided beginning with the dispositional hearing and ending 12 months after the date the child entered foster care as provided in Section 361.49, unless the child is returned to the home of the parent or guardian.

(B) For a child who, on the date of initial removal from the physical custody of his or her parent or guardian, was under three years of age, court-ordered services shall be provided for a period of six months from the dispositional hearing as provided in

1 subdivision (e) of Section 366.21, but no longer than 12 months
2 from the date the child entered foster care as provided in Section
3 361.49 unless the child is returned to the home of the parent or
4 guardian.

5 (C) For the purpose of placing and maintaining a sibling group
6 together in a permanent home should reunification efforts fail, for
7 a child in a sibling group whose members were removed from
8 parental custody at the same time, and in which one member of
9 the sibling group was under three years of age on the date of initial
10 removal from the physical custody of his or her parent or guardian,
11 court-ordered services for some or all of the sibling group may be
12 limited as set forth in subparagraph (B). For the purposes of this
13 paragraph, “a sibling group” shall mean two or more children who
14 are related to each other as full or half siblings.

15 (2) Any motion to terminate court-ordered reunification services
16 prior to the hearing set pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 366.21
17 for a child described by subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1), or
18 prior to the hearing set pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section
19 366.21 for a child described by subparagraph (B) or (C) of
20 paragraph (1), shall be made pursuant to the requirements set forth
21 in subdivision (c) of Section 388. A motion to terminate
22 court-ordered reunification services shall not be required at the
23 hearing set pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 366.21 if the
24 court finds by clear and convincing evidence one of the following:

25 (A) That the child was removed initially under subdivision (g)
26 of Section 300 and the whereabouts of the parent are still unknown.

27 (B) That the parent has failed to contact and visit the child.

28 (C) That the parent has been convicted of a felony indicating
29 parental unfitness.

30 (3) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of
31 paragraph (1), court-ordered services may be extended up to a
32 maximum time period not to exceed 18 months after the date the
33 child was originally removed from physical custody of his or her
34 parent or guardian if it can be shown, at the hearing held pursuant
35 to subdivision (f) of Section 366.21, that the permanent plan for
36 the child is that he or she will be returned and safely maintained
37 in the home within the extended time period. The court shall extend
38 the time period only if it finds that there is a substantial probability
39 that the child will be returned to the physical custody of his or her
40 parent or guardian within the extended time period or that

1 reasonable services have not been provided to the parent or
2 guardian. In determining whether court-ordered services may be
3 extended, the court shall consider the special circumstances of an
4 incarcerated or institutionalized parent or parents, parent or parents
5 court-ordered to a residential substance abuse treatment program,
6 or a parent who has been arrested and issued an immigration hold,
7 detained by the United States Department of Homeland Security,
8 or deported to his or her country of origin, including, but not
9 limited to, barriers to the parent's or guardian's access to services
10 and ability to maintain contact with his or her child. The court
11 shall also consider, among other factors, good faith efforts that the
12 parent or guardian has made to maintain contact with the child. If
13 the court extends the time period, the court shall specify the factual
14 basis for its conclusion that there is a substantial probability that
15 the child will be returned to the physical custody of his or her
16 parent or guardian within the extended time period. The court also
17 shall make findings pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 366 and
18 subdivision (e) of Section 358.1.

19 When counseling or other treatment services are ordered, the
20 parent or guardian shall be ordered to participate in those services,
21 unless the parent's or guardian's participation is deemed by the
22 court to be inappropriate or potentially detrimental to the child, or
23 unless a parent or guardian is incarcerated ~~of~~ *or* detained by the
24 United States Department of Homeland Security and the corrections
25 facility in which he or she is incarcerated does not provide access
26 to the treatment services ordered by the court, or has been deported
27 to his or her country of origin and services ordered by the court
28 are not accessible in that country. Physical custody of the child by
29 the parents or guardians during the applicable time period under
30 subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1) shall not serve to
31 interrupt the running of the time period. If at the end of the
32 applicable time period, a child cannot be safely returned to the
33 care and custody of a parent or guardian without court supervision,
34 but the child clearly desires contact with the parent or guardian,
35 the court shall take the child's desire into account in devising a
36 permanency plan.

37 In cases ~~where~~ *in which* the child was under three years of age
38 on the date of the initial removal from the physical custody of his
39 or her parent or guardian or is a member of a sibling group as
40 described in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1), the court shall

1 inform the parent or guardian that the failure of the parent or
2 guardian to participate regularly in any court-ordered treatment
3 programs or to cooperate or avail himself or herself of services
4 provided as part of the child welfare services case plan may result
5 in a termination of efforts to reunify the family after six months.
6 The court shall inform the parent or guardian of the factors used
7 in subdivision (e) of Section 366.21 to determine whether to limit
8 services to six months for some or all members of a sibling group
9 as described in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1).

10 (4) Notwithstanding paragraph (3), court-ordered services may
11 be extended up to a maximum time period not to exceed 24 months
12 after the date the child was originally removed from physical
13 custody of his or her parent or guardian if it is shown, at the hearing
14 held pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 366.22, that the
15 permanent plan for the child is that he or she will be returned and
16 safely maintained in the home within the extended time period.
17 The court shall extend the time period only if it finds that it is in
18 the child's best interest to have the time period extended and that
19 there is a substantial probability that the child will be returned to
20 the physical custody of his or her parent or guardian who is
21 described in subdivision (b) of Section 366.22 within the extended
22 time period, or that reasonable services have not been provided to
23 the parent or guardian. If the court extends the time period, the
24 court shall specify the factual basis for its conclusion that there is
25 a substantial probability that the child will be returned to the
26 physical custody of his or her parent or guardian within the
27 extended time period. The court also shall make findings pursuant
28 to subdivision (a) of Section 366 and subdivision (e) of Section
29 358.1.

30 When counseling or other treatment services are ordered, the
31 parent or guardian shall be ordered to participate in those services,
32 in order for substantial probability to be found. Physical custody
33 of the child by the parents or guardians during the applicable time
34 period under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1) shall
35 not serve to interrupt the running of the time period. If at the end
36 of the applicable time period, the child cannot be safely returned
37 to the care and custody of a parent or guardian without court
38 supervision, but the child clearly desires contact with the parent
39 or guardian, the court shall take the child's desire into account in
40 devising a permanency plan.

1 Except in cases ~~where~~, *in which*, pursuant to subdivision (b), the
2 court does not order reunification services, the court shall inform
3 the parent or parents of Section 366.26 and shall specify that the
4 parent's or parents' parental rights may be terminated.

5 (b) Reunification services need not be provided to a parent or
6 guardian described in this subdivision when the court finds, by
7 clear and convincing evidence, any of the following:

8 (1) That the whereabouts of the parent or guardian is unknown.
9 A finding pursuant to this paragraph shall be supported by an
10 affidavit or by proof that a reasonably diligent search has failed
11 to locate the parent or guardian. The posting or publication of
12 notices is not required in that search.

13 (2) That the parent or guardian is suffering from a mental
14 disability that is described in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section
15 7820) of Part 4 of Division 12 of the Family Code and that renders
16 him or her incapable of utilizing those services.

17 (3) That the child or a sibling of the child has been previously
18 adjudicated a dependent pursuant to any subdivision of Section
19 300 as a result of physical or sexual abuse, that following that
20 adjudication the child had been removed from the custody of his
21 or her parent or guardian pursuant to Section 361, that the child
22 has been returned to the custody of the parent or guardian from
23 whom the child had been taken originally, and that the child is
24 being removed pursuant to Section 361, due to additional physical
25 or sexual abuse.

26 (4) That the parent or guardian of the child has caused the death
27 of another child through abuse or neglect.

28 (5) That the child was brought within the jurisdiction of the
29 court under subdivision (e) of Section 300 because of the conduct
30 of that parent or guardian.

31 (6) That the child has been adjudicated a dependent pursuant
32 to any subdivision of Section 300 as a result of severe sexual abuse
33 or the infliction of severe physical harm to the child, a sibling, or
34 a half sibling by a parent or guardian, as defined in this subdivision,
35 and the court makes a factual finding that it would not benefit the
36 child to pursue reunification services with the offending parent or
37 guardian.

38 A finding of severe sexual abuse, for the purposes of this
39 subdivision, may be based on, but is not limited to, sexual
40 intercourse, or stimulation involving genital-genital, oral-genital,

1 anal-genital, or oral-anal contact, whether between the parent or
2 guardian and the child or a sibling or half sibling of the child, or
3 between the child or a sibling or half sibling of the child and
4 another person or animal with the actual or implied consent of the
5 parent or guardian; or the penetration or manipulation of the
6 child's, sibling's, or half sibling's genital organs or rectum by any
7 animate or inanimate object for the sexual gratification of the
8 parent or guardian, or for the sexual gratification of another person
9 with the actual or implied consent of the parent or guardian.

10 A finding of the infliction of severe physical harm, for the
11 purposes of this subdivision, may be based on, but is not limited
12 to, deliberate and serious injury inflicted to or on a child's body
13 or the body of a sibling or half sibling of the child by an act or
14 omission of the parent or guardian, or of another individual or
15 animal with the consent of the parent or guardian; deliberate and
16 torturous confinement of the child, sibling, or half sibling in a
17 closed space; or any other torturous act or omission that would be
18 reasonably understood to cause serious emotional damage.

19 (7) That the parent is not receiving reunification services for a
20 sibling or a half sibling of the child pursuant to paragraph (3), (5),
21 or (6).

22 (8) That the child was conceived by means of the commission
23 of an offense listed in Section 288 or 288.5 of the Penal Code, or
24 by an act committed outside of this state that, if committed in this
25 state, would constitute one of those offenses. This paragraph only
26 applies to the parent who committed the offense or act.

27 (9) That the child has been found to be a child described in
28 subdivision (g) of Section 300; that the parent or guardian of the
29 child willfully abandoned the child, and the court finds that the
30 abandonment itself constituted a serious danger to the child; or
31 that the parent or other person having custody of the child
32 voluntarily surrendered physical custody of the child pursuant to
33 Section 1255.7 of the Health and Safety Code. For the purposes
34 of this paragraph, "serious danger" means that without the
35 intervention of another person or agency, the child would have
36 sustained severe or permanent disability, injury, illness, or death.
37 For purposes of this paragraph, "willful abandonment" shall not
38 be construed as actions taken in good faith by the parent without
39 the intent of placing the child in serious danger.

1 (10) That the court ordered termination of reunification services
2 for any siblings or half siblings of the child because the parent or
3 guardian failed to reunify with the sibling or half sibling after the
4 sibling or half sibling had been removed from that parent or
5 guardian pursuant to Section 361 and that parent or guardian is
6 the same parent or guardian described in subdivision (a) and that,
7 according to the findings of the court, this parent or guardian has
8 not subsequently made a reasonable effort to treat the problems
9 that led to removal of the sibling or half sibling of that child from
10 that parent or guardian.

11 (11) That the parental rights of a parent over any sibling or half
12 sibling of the child had been permanently severed, and this parent
13 is the same parent described in subdivision (a), and that, according
14 to the findings of the court, this parent has not subsequently made
15 a reasonable effort to treat the problems that led to removal of the
16 sibling or half sibling of that child from the parent.

17 (12) That the parent or guardian of the child has been convicted
18 of a violent felony, as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 667.5
19 of the Penal Code.

20 (13) That the parent or guardian of the child has a history of
21 extensive, abusive, and chronic use of drugs or alcohol and has
22 resisted prior court-ordered treatment for this problem during a
23 three-year period immediately prior to the filing of the petition
24 that brought that child to the court's attention, or has failed or
25 refused to comply with a program of drug or alcohol treatment
26 described in the case plan required by Section 358.1 on at least
27 two prior occasions, even though the programs identified were
28 available and accessible.

29 (14) That the parent or guardian of the child has advised the
30 court that he or she is not interested in receiving family
31 maintenance or family reunification services or having the child
32 returned to or placed in his or her custody and does not wish to
33 receive family maintenance or reunification services.

34 The parent or guardian shall be represented by counsel and shall
35 execute a waiver of services form to be adopted by the Judicial
36 Council. The court shall advise the parent or guardian of any right
37 to services and of the possible consequences of a waiver of
38 services, including the termination of parental rights and placement
39 of the child for adoption. The court shall not accept the waiver of
40 services unless it states on the record its finding that the parent or

1 guardian has knowingly and intelligently waived the right to
2 services.

3 (15) That the parent or guardian has on one or more occasions
4 willfully abducted the child or child's sibling or half sibling from
5 his or her placement and refused to disclose the child's or child's
6 sibling's or half sibling's whereabouts, refused to return physical
7 custody of the child or child's sibling or half sibling to his or her
8 placement, or refused to return physical custody of the child or
9 child's sibling or half sibling to the social worker.

10 (16) That the parent or guardian has been required by the court
11 to be registered on a sex offender registry under the federal Adam
12 Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. Sec.
13 16913(a)), as required in Section 106(b)(2)(B)(xvi)(VI) of the
14 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C.
15 Sec. 5106a(2)(B)(xvi)(VI)).

16 (c) In deciding whether to order reunification in any case in
17 which this section applies, the court shall hold a dispositional
18 hearing. The social worker shall prepare a report that discusses
19 whether reunification services shall be provided. When it is alleged,
20 pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), that the parent is
21 incapable of utilizing services due to mental disability, the court
22 shall order reunification services unless competent evidence from
23 mental health professionals establishes that, even with the provision
24 of services, the parent is unlikely to be capable of adequately caring
25 for the child within the time limits specified in subdivision (a).

26 The court shall not order reunification for a parent or guardian
27 described in paragraph (3), (4), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12),
28 (13), (14), (15), or (16) of subdivision (b) unless the court finds,
29 by clear and convincing evidence, that reunification is in the best
30 interest of the child.

31 In addition, the court shall not order reunification in any situation
32 described in paragraph (5) of subdivision (b) unless it finds that,
33 based on competent testimony, those services are likely to prevent
34 reabuse or continued neglect of the child or that failure to try
35 reunification will be detrimental to the child because the child is
36 closely and positively attached to that parent. The social worker
37 shall investigate the circumstances leading to the removal of the
38 child and advise the court whether there are circumstances that
39 indicate that reunification is likely to be successful or unsuccessful

1 and whether failure to order reunification is likely to be detrimental
2 to the child.

3 The failure of the parent to respond to previous services, the fact
4 that the child was abused while the parent was under the influence
5 of drugs or alcohol, a past history of violent behavior, or testimony
6 by a competent professional that the parent's behavior is unlikely
7 to be changed by services are among the factors indicating that
8 reunification services are unlikely to be successful. The fact that
9 a parent or guardian is no longer living with an individual who
10 severely abused the child may be considered in deciding that
11 reunification services are likely to be successful, provided that the
12 court shall consider any pattern of behavior on the part of the parent
13 that has exposed the child to repeated abuse.

14 (d) If reunification services are not ordered pursuant to
15 paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) and the whereabouts of a parent
16 become known within six months of the out-of-home placement
17 of the child, the court shall order the social worker to provide
18 family reunification services in accordance with this subdivision.

19 (e) (1) If the parent or guardian is incarcerated, institutionalized,
20 or detained by the United States Department of Homeland Security,
21 or has been deported to his or her country of origin, the court shall
22 order reasonable services unless the court determines, by clear and
23 convincing evidence, those services would be detrimental to the
24 child. In determining detriment, the court shall consider the age
25 of the child, the degree of parent-child bonding, the length of the
26 sentence, the length and nature of the treatment, the nature of the
27 crime or illness, the degree of detriment to the child if services are
28 not offered and, for children 10 years of age or older, the child's
29 attitude toward the implementation of family reunification services,
30 the likelihood of the parent's discharge from incarceration,
31 institutionalization, or detention within the reunification time
32 limitations described in subdivision (a), and any other appropriate
33 factors. In determining the content of reasonable services, the court
34 shall consider the particular barriers to an incarcerated,
35 institutionalized, detained, or deported parent's access to those
36 court-mandated services and ability to maintain contact with his
37 or her child, and shall document this information in the child's
38 case plan. Reunification services are subject to the applicable time
39 limitations imposed in subdivision (a). Services may include, but
40 shall not be limited to, all of the following:

1 (A) Maintaining contact between the parent and child through
2 collect telephone calls.

3 (B) Transportation services, ~~where~~ *when* appropriate.

4 (C) Visitation services, ~~where~~ *when* appropriate.

5 (D) Reasonable services to extended family members or foster
6 parents providing care for the child if the services are not
7 detrimental to the child.

8 An incarcerated or detained parent may be required to attend
9 counseling, parenting classes, or vocational training programs as
10 part of the reunification service plan if actual access to these
11 services is provided. The social worker shall document in the
12 child's case plan the particular barriers to an incarcerated,
13 institutionalized, or detained parent's access to those
14 court-mandated services and ability to maintain contact with his
15 or her child.

16 (E) Reasonable efforts to assist parents who have been deported
17 to contact child welfare authorities in their country of origin, to
18 identify any available services that would substantially comply
19 with case plan requirements, to document the parents' participation
20 in those services, and to accept reports from local child welfare
21 authorities as to the parents' living situation, progress, and
22 participation in services.

23 (2) The presiding judge of the juvenile court of each county
24 may convene representatives of the county welfare department,
25 the sheriff's department, and other appropriate entities for the
26 purpose of developing and entering into protocols for ensuring the
27 notification, transportation, and presence of an incarcerated or
28 institutionalized parent at all court hearings involving proceedings
29 affecting the child pursuant to Section 2625 of the Penal Code.
30 The county welfare department shall utilize the prisoner locator
31 system developed by the Department of Corrections and
32 Rehabilitation to facilitate timely and effective notice of hearings
33 for incarcerated parents.

34 (3) Notwithstanding any other ~~provision~~ of law, if the
35 incarcerated parent is a woman seeking to participate in the
36 community treatment program operated by the Department of
37 Corrections and Rehabilitation pursuant to Chapter 4.8
38 (commencing with Section 1174) of Title 7 of Part 2 of, Chapter
39 4 (commencing with Section 3410) of Title 2 of Part 3 of, the Penal
40 Code, the court shall determine whether the parent's participation

1 in a program is in the child's best interest and whether it is suitable
2 to meet the needs of the parent and child.

3 (f) If the court, pursuant to paragraph (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7),
4 (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15), or (16) of subdivision (b)
5 or paragraph (1) of subdivision (e), does not order reunification
6 services, it shall, at the dispositional hearing, that shall include a
7 permanency hearing, determine if a hearing under Section 366.26
8 shall be set in order to determine whether adoption, guardianship,
9 ~~or long-term~~ *continuation in foster care*, or in the case of an Indian
10 child, in consultation with the child's tribe, tribal customary
11 adoption, is the most appropriate *current* plan for the child, and
12 shall consider in-state and out-of-state placement options. If the
13 court so determines, it shall conduct the hearing pursuant to Section
14 366.26 within 120 days after the dispositional hearing. However,
15 the court shall not schedule a hearing so long as the other parent
16 is being provided reunification services pursuant to subdivision
17 (a). The court may continue to permit the parent to visit the child
18 unless it finds that visitation would be detrimental to the child.

19 (g) (1) Whenever a court orders that a hearing shall be held
20 pursuant to Section 366.26, including, when, in consultation with
21 the child's tribe, tribal customary adoption is recommended, it
22 shall direct the agency supervising the child and the county
23 adoption agency, or the State Department of Social Services when
24 it is acting as an adoption agency, to prepare an assessment that
25 shall include:

26 (A) Current search efforts for an absent parent or parents and
27 notification of a noncustodial parent in the manner provided for
28 in Section 291.

29 (B) A review of the amount of and nature of any contact between
30 the child and his or her parents and other members of his or her
31 extended family since the time of placement. Although the
32 extended family of each child shall be reviewed on a case-by-case
33 basis, "extended family" for the purpose of this subparagraph shall
34 include, but not be limited to, the child's siblings, grandparents,
35 aunts, and uncles.

36 (C) An evaluation of the child's medical, developmental,
37 scholastic, mental, and emotional status.

38 (D) A preliminary assessment of the eligibility and commitment
39 of any identified prospective adoptive parent or guardian, including
40 a prospective tribal customary adoptive parent, particularly the

1 caretaker, to include a social history, including screening for
2 criminal records and prior referrals for child abuse or neglect, the
3 capability to meet the child's needs, and the understanding of the
4 legal and financial rights and responsibilities of adoption and
5 guardianship. If a proposed guardian is a relative of the minor, the
6 assessment shall also consider, but need not be limited to, all of
7 the factors specified in subdivision (a) of Section 361.3 and in
8 Section 361.4. As used in this subparagraph, "relative" means an
9 adult who is related to the minor by blood, adoption, or affinity
10 within the fifth degree of kinship, including stepparents,
11 stepsiblings, and all relatives whose status is preceded by the words
12 "great," "great-great," or "grand," or the spouse of any of those
13 persons even if the marriage was terminated by death or
14 dissolution. If the proposed permanent plan is guardianship with
15 an approved relative caregiver for a minor eligible for aid under
16 the Kin-GAP Program, as provided for in Article 4.7 (commencing
17 with Section 11385) of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 9, "relative"
18 as used in this section has the same meaning as "relative" as
19 defined in subdivision (c) of Section 11391.

20 (E) The relationship of the child to any identified prospective
21 adoptive parent or guardian, including a prospective tribal
22 customary parent, the duration and character of the relationship,
23 the degree of attachment of the child to the prospective relative
24 guardian or adoptive parent, the relative's or adoptive parent's
25 strong commitment to caring permanently for the child, the
26 motivation for seeking adoption or guardianship, a statement from
27 the child concerning placement and the adoption or guardianship,
28 and whether the child over 12 years of age has been consulted
29 about the proposed relative guardianship arrangements, unless the
30 child's age or physical, emotional, or other condition precludes
31 his or her meaningful response, ~~and~~ *and*, if so, a description of the
32 condition.

33 (F) An analysis of the likelihood that the child will be adopted
34 if parental rights are terminated.

35 (G) In the case of an Indian child, in addition to subparagraphs
36 (A) to (F), inclusive, an assessment of the likelihood that the child
37 will be adopted, when, in consultation with the child's tribe, a
38 customary adoption, as defined in Section 366.24, is recommended.
39 If tribal customary adoption is recommended, the assessment shall
40 include an analysis of both of the following:

1 (i) Whether tribal customary adoption would or would not be
2 detrimental to the Indian child and the reasons for reaching that
3 conclusion.

4 (ii) Whether the Indian child cannot or should not be returned
5 to the home of the Indian parent or Indian custodian and the reasons
6 for reaching that conclusion.

7 (2) (A) A relative caregiver's preference for legal guardianship
8 over adoption, if it is due to circumstances that do not include an
9 unwillingness to accept legal or financial responsibility for the
10 child, shall not constitute the sole basis for recommending removal
11 of the child from the relative caregiver for purposes of adoptive
12 placement.

13 (B) Regardless of his or her immigration status, a relative
14 caregiver shall be given information regarding the permanency
15 options of guardianship and adoption, including the long-term
16 benefits and consequences of each option, prior to establishing
17 legal guardianship or pursuing adoption. If the proposed permanent
18 plan is guardianship with an approved relative caregiver for a
19 minor eligible for aid under the Kin-GAP Program, as provided
20 for in Article 4.7 (commencing with Section 11385) of Chapter 2
21 of Part 3 of Division 9, the relative caregiver shall be informed
22 about the terms and conditions of the negotiated agreement
23 pursuant to Section 11387 and shall agree to its execution prior to
24 the hearing held pursuant to Section 366.26. A copy of the executed
25 negotiated agreement shall be attached to the assessment.

26 (h) If, at any hearing held pursuant to Section 366.26, a
27 guardianship is established for the minor with an approved relative
28 caregiver and juvenile court dependency is subsequently dismissed,
29 the minor shall be eligible for aid under the Kin-GAP Program as
30 provided for in Article 4.5 (commencing with Section 11360) or
31 Article 4.7 (commencing with Section 11385) of Chapter 2 of Part
32 3 of Division 9, as applicable.

33 (i) In determining whether reunification services will benefit
34 the child pursuant to paragraph (6) or (7) of subdivision (b), the
35 court shall consider any information it deems relevant, including
36 the following factors:

37 (1) The specific act or omission comprising the severe sexual
38 abuse or the severe physical harm inflicted on the child or the
39 child's sibling or half sibling.

1 (2) The circumstances under which the abuse or harm was
2 inflicted on the child or the child's sibling or half sibling.

3 (3) The severity of the emotional trauma suffered by the child
4 or the child's sibling or half sibling.

5 (4) Any history of abuse of other children by the offending
6 parent or guardian.

7 (5) The likelihood that the child may be safely returned to the
8 care of the offending parent or guardian within 12 months with no
9 continuing supervision.

10 (6) Whether or not the child desires to be reunified with the
11 offending parent or guardian.

12 (j) When the court determines that reunification services will
13 not be ordered, it shall order that the child's caregiver receive the
14 child's birth certificate in accordance with Sections 16010.4 and
15 16010.5. Additionally, when the court determines that reunification
16 services will not be ordered, it shall order, when appropriate, that
17 a child who is 16 years of age or older receive his or her birth
18 certificate.

19 (k) The court shall read into the record the basis for a finding
20 of severe sexual abuse or the infliction of severe physical harm
21 under paragraph (6) of subdivision (b), and shall also specify the
22 factual findings used to determine that the provision of
23 reunification services to the offending parent or guardian would
24 not benefit the child.

25 SEC. 3. Section 366 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
26 amended to read:

27 366. (a) (1) The status of every dependent child in foster care
28 shall be reviewed periodically as determined by the court but no
29 less frequently than once every six months, as calculated from the
30 date of the original dispositional hearing, until the hearing
31 described in Section 366.26 is completed. The court shall consider
32 the safety of the child and shall determine all of the following:

33 (A) The continuing necessity for and appropriateness of the
34 placement.

35 (B) The extent of the agency's compliance with the case plan
36 in making reasonable efforts, or, in the case of a child 16 years of
37 age or older with another planned permanent living arrangement,
38 the ongoing and intensive efforts, *including child-centered*
39 *specialized permanency services, as defined in Section 11400*, or,
40 in the case of an Indian child, active efforts as described in Section

1 361.7, to return the child to a safe-home home, as described in
2 Section 361.7, and to complete any steps necessary to finalize the
3 permanent placement of the child, including efforts to maintain
4 relationships between a child who is 10 years of age or older and
5 who has been in an out-of-home placement for six months or
6 longer, and individuals other than the child's siblings who are
7 important to the child, consistent with the child's best interests.

8 (C) Whether there should be any limitation on the right of the
9 parent or guardian to make educational decisions or developmental
10 services decisions for the child. That limitation shall be specifically
11 addressed in the court order and may not exceed those necessary
12 to protect the child. Whenever the court specifically limits the right
13 of the parent or guardian to make educational decisions or
14 developmental services decisions for the child, the court shall at
15 the same time appoint a responsible adult to make educational
16 decisions or developmental services decisions for the child pursuant
17 to Section 361.

18 (D) (i) Whether the child has other siblings under the court's
19 jurisdiction, and, if any siblings exist, all of the following:

20 (I) The nature of the relationship between the child and his or
21 her siblings.

22 (II) The appropriateness of developing or maintaining the sibling
23 relationships pursuant to Section 16002.

24 (III) If the siblings are not placed together in the same home,
25 why the siblings are not placed together and what efforts are being
26 made to place the siblings together, or why those efforts are not
27 appropriate.

28 (IV) If the siblings are not placed together, all of the following:

29 (ia) The frequency and nature of the visits between the siblings.

30 (ib) If there are visits between the siblings, whether the visits
31 are supervised or unsupervised. If the visits are supervised, a
32 discussion of the reasons why the visits are supervised, and what
33 needs to be accomplished in order for the visits to be unsupervised.

34 (ic) If there are visits between the siblings, a description of the
35 location and length of the visits.

36 (id) Any plan to increase visitation between the siblings.

37 (V) The impact of the sibling relationships on the child's
38 placement and planning for legal permanence.

39 (VI) The continuing need to suspend sibling interaction, if
40 applicable, pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 16002.

(ii) The factors the court may consider in making a determination regarding the nature of the child's sibling relationships may include, but are not limited to, whether the siblings were raised together in the same home, whether the siblings have shared significant common experiences or have existing close and strong bonds, whether either sibling expresses a desire to visit or live with his or her sibling, as applicable, and whether ongoing contact is in the child's best emotional interests.

(E) The extent of progress that has been made toward alleviating or mitigating the causes necessitating placement in foster care.

(F) If the review hearing is the last review hearing to be held before the child attains 18 years of age, the court shall conduct the hearing pursuant to Section 366.31 or 366.32.

(2) The court shall project a likely date by which the child may be returned to and safely maintained in the home or placed for adoption, tribal customary adoption in the case of an Indian child, legal guardianship, placed with a fit and willing relative, ~~or or, if the child is 16 years of age or older, in another planned permanent living—arrangement.~~ *arrangement with the provision of child-centered specialized permanency services, as defined in Section 11400.*

(b) Subsequent to the hearing, periodic reviews of each child in foster care shall be conducted pursuant to the requirements of Sections 366.3 and 16503.

(c) If the child has been placed out of state, each review described in subdivision (a) and any reviews conducted pursuant to Sections 366.3 and 16503 shall also address whether the out-of-state placement continues to be the most appropriate placement selection and in the best interests of the child.

(d) (1) A review described in subdivision (a) and any reviews conducted pursuant to Sections 366.3 and 16503 shall not result in a placement of a child outside the United States prior to a judicial finding that the placement is in the best interest of the child, except as required by federal law or treaty.

(2) The party or agency requesting placement of the child outside the United States shall carry the burden of proof and must show, by clear and convincing evidence, that a placement outside the United States is in the best interest of the child.

(3) In determining the best interest of the child, the court shall consider, but not be limited to, the following factors:

- 1 (A) Placement with a relative.
- 2 (B) Placement of siblings in the same home.
- 3 (C) Amount and nature of any contact between the child and
- 4 the potential guardian or caretaker.
- 5 (D) Physical and medical needs of the dependent child.
- 6 (E) Psychological and emotional needs of the dependent child.
- 7 (F) Social, cultural, and educational needs of the dependent
- 8 child.
- 9 (G) Specific desires of any dependent child who is 12 years of
- 10 age or older.

11 (4) If the court finds that a placement outside the United States
12 is, by clear and convincing evidence, in the best interest of the
13 child, the court may issue an order authorizing the social worker
14 or placing agency to make a placement outside the United States.
15 A child subject to this subdivision shall not leave the United States
16 prior to the issuance of the order described in this paragraph.

17 (5) For purposes of this subdivision, “outside the United States”
18 shall not include the lands of any federally recognized American
19 Indian tribe or Alaskan Natives.

20 (6) This section shall not apply to the placement of a dependent
21 child with a parent.

22 (e) A child may not be placed in an out-of-state group home,
23 or remain in an out-of-state group home, unless the group home
24 is in compliance with Section 7911.1 of the Family Code.

25 (f) The status review of every nonminor dependent, as defined
26 in subdivision (v) of Section 11400, shall be conducted pursuant
27 to the requirements of Sections 366.3, 366.31, or 366.32, and 16503
28 until dependency jurisdiction is terminated pursuant to Section
29 391.

30 SEC. 4. Section 366.21 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
31 is amended to read:

32 366.21. (a) Every hearing conducted by the juvenile court
33 reviewing the status of a dependent child shall be placed on the
34 appearance calendar. The court shall advise all persons present at
35 the hearing of the date of the future hearing and of their right to
36 be present and represented by counsel.

37 (b) Except as provided in Sections 294 and 295, notice of the
38 hearing shall be provided pursuant to Section 293.

39 (c) At least 10 calendar days prior to the hearing, the social
40 worker shall file a supplemental report with the court regarding

1 the services provided or offered to the parent or legal guardian to
2 enable him or her to assume custody and the efforts made to
3 achieve legal permanence for the child if efforts to reunify fail,
4 including, but not limited to, efforts to maintain relationships
5 between a child who is 10 years of age or older and has been in
6 out-of-home placement for six months or longer and individuals
7 who are important to the child, consistent with the child's best
8 interests; the progress made; and, where relevant, the prognosis
9 for return of the child to the physical custody of his or her parent
10 or legal guardian; and shall make his or her recommendation for
11 disposition. If the child is a member of a sibling group described
12 in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section
13 361.5, the report and recommendation may also take into account
14 those factors described in subdivision (e) relating to the child's
15 sibling group. If the recommendation is not to return the child to
16 a parent or legal guardian, the report shall specify why the return
17 of the child would be detrimental to the child. The social worker
18 shall provide the parent or legal guardian, counsel for the child,
19 and any court-appointed child advocate with a copy of the report,
20 including his or her recommendation for disposition, at least 10
21 calendar days prior to the hearing. In the case of a child removed
22 from the physical custody of his or her parent or legal guardian,
23 the social worker shall, at least 10 calendar days prior to the
24 hearing, provide a summary of his or her recommendation for
25 disposition to any foster parents, relative caregivers, and certified
26 foster parents who have been approved for adoption by the State
27 Department of Social Services when it is acting as an adoption
28 agency or by a county adoption agency, community care facility,
29 or foster family agency having the physical custody of the child.
30 The social worker shall include a copy of the Judicial Council
31 Caregiver Information Form (JV-290) with the summary of
32 recommendations to the child's foster parents, relative caregivers,
33 or foster parents approved for adoption, in the caregiver's primary
34 language when available, along with information on how to file
35 the form with the court.

36 (d) Prior to any hearing involving a child in the physical custody
37 of a community care facility or a foster family agency that may
38 result in the return of the child to the physical custody of his or
39 her parent or legal guardian, ~~or~~ in adoption or the creation of a
40 legal guardianship, ~~or~~ *or*; in the case of an Indian child, in

1 consultation with the child's tribe, tribal customary adoption, the
2 facility or agency shall file with the court a report, or a Judicial
3 Council Caregiver Information Form (JV-290), containing its
4 recommendation for disposition. Prior to the hearing involving a
5 child in the physical custody of a foster parent, a relative caregiver,
6 or a certified foster parent who has been approved for adoption by
7 the State Department of Social Services when it is acting as an
8 adoption agency or by a county adoption agency, the foster parent,
9 relative caregiver, or the certified foster parent who has been
10 approved for adoption by the State Department of Social Services
11 when it is acting as an adoption agency or by a county adoption
12 agency, may file with the court a report containing his or her
13 recommendation for disposition. The court shall consider the report
14 and recommendation filed pursuant to this subdivision prior to
15 determining any disposition.

16 (e) (1) At the review hearing held six months after the initial
17 dispositional hearing, but no later than 12 months after the date
18 the child entered foster care as determined in Section 361.49,
19 whichever occurs earlier, after considering the admissible and
20 relevant evidence, the court shall order the return of the child to
21 the physical custody of his or her parent or legal guardian unless
22 the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the return
23 of the child to his or her parent or legal guardian would create a
24 substantial risk of detriment to the safety, protection, or physical
25 or emotional well-being of the child. The social worker shall have
26 the burden of establishing that detriment. At the hearing, the court
27 shall consider the criminal history, obtained pursuant to paragraph
28 (1) of subdivision (f) of Section 16504.5, of the parent or legal
29 guardian subsequent to the child's removal to the extent that the
30 criminal record is substantially related to the welfare of the child
31 or the parent's or guardian's ability to exercise custody and control
32 regarding his or her child, provided the parent or legal guardian
33 agreed to submit fingerprint images to obtain criminal history
34 information as part of the case plan. The court shall also consider
35 whether the child can be returned to the custody of his or her parent
36 who is enrolled in a certified substance abuse treatment facility
37 that allows a dependent child to reside with his or her parent. The
38 fact that the parent is enrolled in a certified substance abuse
39 treatment facility shall not be, for that reason alone, prima facie
40 evidence of detriment. The failure of the parent or legal guardian

1 to participate regularly and make substantive progress in
2 court-ordered treatment programs shall be prima facie evidence
3 that return would be detrimental. In making its determination, the
4 court shall review and consider the social worker's report and
5 recommendations and the report and recommendations of any child
6 advocate appointed pursuant to Section 356.5; and shall consider
7 the efforts or progress, or both, demonstrated by the parent or legal
8 guardian and the extent to which he or she availed himself or
9 herself of services provided, taking into account the particular
10 barriers to a minor parent or a nonminor dependent parent, or an
11 incarcerated, institutionalized, detained, or deported parent's or
12 legal guardian's access to those court-mandated services and ability
13 to maintain contact with his or her child.

14 (2) Regardless of whether the child is returned to a parent or
15 legal guardian, the court shall specify the factual basis for its
16 conclusion that the return would be detrimental or would not be
17 detrimental. The court also shall make appropriate findings
18 pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 366; and, where relevant,
19 shall order any additional services reasonably believed to facilitate
20 the return of the child to the custody of his or her parent or legal
21 guardian. The court shall also inform the parent or legal guardian
22 that if the child cannot be returned home by the 12-month
23 permanency hearing, a proceeding pursuant to Section 366.26 may
24 be instituted. This section does not apply in a case where, pursuant
25 to Section 361.5, the court has ordered that reunification services
26 shall not be provided.

27 (3) If the child was under three years of age on the date of the
28 initial removal, or is a member of a sibling group described in
29 subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section
30 361.5, and the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that
31 the parent failed to participate regularly and make substantive
32 progress in a court-ordered treatment plan, the court may schedule
33 a hearing pursuant to Section 366.26 within 120 days. If, however,
34 the court finds there is a substantial probability that the child, who
35 was under three years of age on the date of initial removal or is a
36 member of a sibling group described in subparagraph (C) of
37 paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 361.5, may be returned
38 to his or her parent or legal guardian within six months or that
39 reasonable services have not been provided, the court shall continue
40 the case to the 12-month permanency hearing.

(4) For the purpose of placing and maintaining a sibling group together in a permanent home, the court, in making its determination to schedule a hearing pursuant to Section 366.26 for some or all members of a sibling group, as described in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 361.5, shall review and consider the social worker's report and recommendations. Factors the report shall address, and the court shall consider, may include, but need not be limited to, whether the sibling group was removed from parental care as a group, the closeness and strength of the sibling bond, the ages of the siblings, the appropriateness of maintaining the sibling group together, the detriment to the child if sibling ties are not maintained, the likelihood of finding a permanent home for the sibling group, whether the sibling group is currently placed together in a preadoptive home or has a concurrent plan goal of legal permanency in the same home, the wishes of each child whose age and physical and emotional condition permits a meaningful response, and the best interests of each child in the sibling group. The court shall specify the factual basis for its finding that it is in the best interests of each child to schedule a hearing pursuant to Section 366.26 within 120 days for some or all of the members of the sibling group.

(5) If the child was removed initially under subdivision (g) of Section 300 and the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the whereabouts of the parent are still unknown, or the parent has failed to contact and visit the child, the court may schedule a hearing pursuant to Section 366.26 within 120 days. The court shall take into account any particular barriers to a parent's ability to maintain contact with his or her child due to the parent's incarceration, institutionalization, detention by the United States Department of Homeland Security, or deportation. If the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the parent has been convicted of a felony indicating parental unfitness, the court may schedule a hearing pursuant to Section 366.26 within 120 days.

(6) If the child had been placed under court supervision with a previously noncustodial parent pursuant to Section 361.2, the court shall determine whether supervision is still necessary. The court may terminate supervision and transfer permanent custody to that parent, as provided for by paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 361.2.

1 (7) In all other cases, the court shall direct that any reunification
2 services previously ordered shall continue to be offered to the
3 parent or legal guardian pursuant to the time periods set forth in
4 subdivision (a) of Section 361.5, provided that the court may
5 modify the terms and conditions of those services.

6 (8) If the child is not returned to his or her parent or legal
7 guardian, the court shall determine whether reasonable services
8 that were designed to aid the parent or legal guardian in
9 overcoming the problems that led to the initial removal and the
10 continued custody of the child have been provided or offered to
11 the parent or legal guardian. The court shall order that those
12 services be initiated, continued, or terminated.

13 (f) (1) The permanency hearing shall be held no later than 12
14 months after the date the child entered foster care, as that date is
15 determined pursuant to Section 361.49. At the permanency hearing,
16 the court shall determine the permanent plan for the child, which
17 shall include a determination of whether the child will be returned
18 to the child's home and, if so, when, within the time limits of
19 subdivision (a) of Section 361.5. After considering the relevant
20 and admissible evidence, the court shall order the return of the
21 child to the physical custody of his or her parent or legal guardian
22 unless the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that
23 the return of the child to his or her parent or legal guardian would
24 create a substantial risk of detriment to the safety, protection, or
25 physical or emotional well-being of the child. The social worker
26 shall have the burden of establishing that detriment.

27 (A) At the permanency hearing, the court shall consider the
28 criminal history, obtained pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision
29 (f) of Section 16504.5, of the parent or legal guardian subsequent
30 to the child's removal to the extent that the criminal record is
31 substantially related to the welfare of the child or the parent's or
32 legal guardian's ability to exercise custody and control regarding
33 his or her child, provided that the parent or legal guardian agreed
34 to submit fingerprint images to obtain criminal history information
35 as part of the case plan. The court shall also determine whether
36 reasonable services that were designed to aid the parent or legal
37 guardian to overcome the problems that led to the initial removal
38 and continued custody of the child have been provided or offered
39 to the parent or legal guardian.

1 (B) The court shall also consider whether the child can be
2 returned to the custody of his or her parent who is enrolled in a
3 certified substance abuse treatment facility that allows a dependent
4 child to reside with his or her parent. The fact that the parent is
5 enrolled in a certified substance abuse treatment facility shall not
6 be, for that reason alone, prima facie evidence of detriment. The
7 failure of the parent or legal guardian to participate regularly and
8 make substantive progress in court-ordered treatment programs
9 shall be prima facie evidence that return would be detrimental.

10 (C) In making its determination, the court shall review and
11 consider the social worker's report and recommendations and the
12 report and recommendations of any child advocate appointed
13 pursuant to Section 356.5, shall consider the efforts or progress,
14 or both, demonstrated by the parent or legal guardian and the extent
15 to which he or she availed himself or herself of services provided,
16 taking into account the particular barriers to a minor parent or a
17 nonminor dependent parent, or an incarcerated, institutionalized,
18 detained, or deported parent's or legal guardian's access to those
19 court-mandated services and ability to maintain contact with his
20 or her child, and shall make appropriate findings pursuant to
21 subdivision (a) of Section 366.

22 (D) For each youth 16 years of age and older, the court shall
23 also determine whether services have been made available to assist
24 him or her in making the transition from foster care to successful
25 adulthood.

26 (2) Regardless of whether the child is returned to his or her
27 parent or legal guardian, the court shall specify the factual basis
28 for its decision. If the child is not returned to a parent or legal
29 guardian, the court shall specify the factual basis for its conclusion
30 that the return would be detrimental. The court also shall make a
31 finding pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 366. If the child is
32 not returned to his or her parent or legal guardian, the court shall
33 consider, and state for the record, in-state and out-of-state
34 placement options. If the child is placed out of the state, the court
35 shall make a determination whether the out-of-state placement
36 continues to be appropriate and in the best interests of the child.

37 (g) If the time period in which the court-ordered services were
38 provided has met or exceeded the time period set forth in
39 subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a)
40 of Section 361.5, as appropriate, and a child is not returned to the

1 custody of a parent or legal guardian at the permanency hearing
2 held pursuant to subdivision (f), the court shall do one of the
3 following:

4 (1) Continue the case for up to six months for a permanency
5 review hearing, provided that the hearing shall occur within 18
6 months of the date the child was originally taken from the physical
7 custody of his or her parent or legal guardian. The court shall
8 continue the case only if it finds that there is a substantial
9 probability that the child will be returned to the physical custody
10 of his or her parent or legal guardian and safely maintained in the
11 home within the extended period of time or that reasonable services
12 have not been provided to the parent or legal guardian. For the
13 purposes of this section, in order to find a substantial probability
14 that the child will be returned to the physical custody of his or her
15 parent or legal guardian and safely maintained in the home within
16 the extended period of time, the court shall be required to find all
17 of the following:

18 (A) That the parent or legal guardian has consistently and
19 regularly contacted and visited with the child.

20 (B) That the parent or legal guardian has made significant
21 progress in resolving problems that led to the child's removal from
22 the home.

23 (C) The parent or legal guardian has demonstrated the capacity
24 and ability both to complete the objectives of his or her treatment
25 plan and to provide for the child's safety, protection, physical and
26 emotional well-being, and special needs.

27 ~~For~~

28 (i) For purposes of this subdivision, the court's decision to
29 continue the case based on a finding or substantial probability that
30 the child will be returned to the physical custody of his or her
31 parent or legal guardian is a compelling reason for determining
32 that a hearing held pursuant to Section 366.26 is not in the best
33 interests of the child.

34 (ii) The court shall inform the parent or legal guardian that if
35 the child cannot be returned home by the next permanency review
36 hearing, a proceeding pursuant to Section 366.26 may be instituted.
37 The court shall not order that a hearing pursuant to Section 366.26
38 be held unless there is clear and convincing evidence that
39 reasonable services have been provided or offered to the parent or
40 legal guardian.

(2) Continue the case for up to six months for a permanency review hearing, provided that the hearing shall occur within 18 months of the date the child was originally taken from the physical custody of his or her parent or legal guardian, if the parent has been arrested and issued an immigration hold, detained by the United States Department of Homeland Security, or deported to his or her country of origin, and the court determines either that there is a substantial probability that the child will be returned to the physical custody of his or her parent or legal guardian and safely maintained in the home within the extended period of time or that reasonable services have not been provided to the parent or legal guardian.

(3) For purposes of paragraph (2), in order to find a substantial probability that the child will be returned to the physical custody of his or her parent or legal guardian and safely maintained in the home within the extended period of time, the court shall find all of the following:

(A) The parent or legal guardian has consistently and regularly contacted and visited with the child, taking into account any particular barriers to a parent's ability to maintain contact with his or her child due to the parent's arrest and receipt of an immigration hold, detention by the United States Department of Homeland Security, or deportation.

(B) The parent or legal guardian has made significant progress in resolving the problems that led to the child's removal from the home.

(C) The parent or legal guardian has demonstrated the capacity or ability both to complete the objectives of his or her treatment plan and to provide for the child's safety, protection, physical and emotional well-being, and special needs.

(4) Order that a hearing be held within 120 days, pursuant to Section 366.26, but only if the court does not continue the case to the permanency planning review hearing and there is clear and convincing evidence that reasonable services have been provided or offered to the parents or legal guardians. On and after January 1, 2012, a hearing pursuant to Section 366.26 shall not be ordered if the child is a nonminor dependent, unless the nonminor dependent is an Indian child and tribal customary adoption is recommended as the permanent plan.

1 (5) Order that the child remain in foster-care, *care with one of*
2 *the permanent plans listed in subparagraph (A)*, but only if the
3 court finds by clear and convincing evidence, based upon the
4 evidence already presented to it, including a recommendation by
5 the State Department of Social Services when it is acting as an
6 adoption agency or by a county adoption agency, that there is a
7 compelling reason for determining that a hearing held pursuant to
8 Section 366.26 is not in the best interests of the child because the
9 child is not *currently* a proper subject for adoption and has no one
10 willing to accept legal guardianship as of the hearing date. For
11 purposes of this section, a recommendation by the State Department
12 of Social Services when it is acting as an adoption agency or by a
13 county adoption agency that adoption is not *currently* in the best
14 interests of the child shall constitute a compelling reason for the
15 court's determination. That recommendation shall be based on the
16 present circumstances of the child and shall not preclude a different
17 recommendation at a later date if the child's circumstances change.
18 On and after January 1, 2012, the nonminor dependent's legal
19 status as an adult is in and of itself a compelling reason not to hold
20 a hearing pursuant to Section 366.26. The court may order that a
21 nonminor dependent who otherwise is eligible pursuant to Section
22 11403 remain in a planned, permanent living arrangement.

23 (A) The court shall make factual findings identifying any
24 barriers to achieving the permanent plan as of the hearing date.
25 When the child is under 16 years of age, the court shall order a
26 permanent plan of return home, adoption, tribal customary adoption
27 in the case of an Indian child, legal guardianship, or placement
28 with a fit and willing relative, as appropriate. *If the court*
29 *determines that it will not order a hearing pursuant to Section*
30 *366.26, and the child is not currently placed with a fit and willing*
31 *relative, the court shall order the provision of child-centered*
32 *specialized permanency services, as defined in Section 11400.*
33 When the child is 16 years of age or older, or is a nonminor
34 dependent, and no other permanent plan is appropriate at the time
35 of the hearing, the court may order another planned permanent
36 living arrangement, as described in paragraph (2) of subdivision
37 (i) of Section ~~16501~~. 16501, *and order that the appropriateness*
38 *of the child's continuation in another planned permanent living*
39 *arrangement be assessed at the next review hearing held pursuant*
40 *to Section 366. If the court orders another planned permanent*

1 *living arrangement for a child 16 years of age or older, the court*
2 *shall order the provision of child-centered specialized permanency*
3 *services, as defined in Section 11400. If the court orders another*
4 *planned permanent living arrangement for a nonminor dependent,*
5 *the court may order the same services for the nonminor dependent.*

6 (B) If the court orders that a child who is 10 years of age or
7 older remain in foster care, the court shall determine whether the
8 agency has made reasonable efforts to maintain the child's
9 relationships with individuals other than the child's siblings who
10 are important to the child, consistent with the child's best interests,
11 and may make any appropriate order to ensure that those
12 relationships are maintained.

13 (C) If the child is not returned to his or her parent or legal
14 guardian, the court shall consider, and state for the record, in-state
15 and out-of-state options for permanent placement. If the child is
16 placed out of the state, the court shall make a determination
17 whether the out-of-state placement continues to be appropriate and
18 in the best interests of the child.

19 (h) In any case in which the court orders that a hearing pursuant
20 to Section 366.26 shall be held, it shall also order the termination
21 of reunification services to the parent or legal guardian. The court
22 shall continue to permit the parent or legal guardian to visit the
23 child pending the hearing unless it finds that visitation would be
24 detrimental to the child. The court shall make any other appropriate
25 orders to enable the child to maintain relationships with individuals,
26 other than the child's siblings, who are important to the child,
27 consistent with the child's best interests. When the court orders a
28 termination of reunification services to the parent or legal guardian,
29 it shall also order that the child's caregiver receive the child's birth
30 certificate in accordance with Sections 16010.4 and 16010.5.
31 Additionally, when the court orders a termination of reunification
32 services to the parent or legal guardian, it shall order, when
33 appropriate, that a child who is 16 years of age or older receive
34 his or her birth certificate.

35 (i) (1) Whenever a court orders that a hearing pursuant to
36 Section 366.26, including, when, in consultation with the child's
37 tribe, tribal customary adoption is recommended, shall be held, it
38 shall direct the agency supervising the child and the county
39 adoption agency, or the State Department of Social Services when

1 it is acting as an adoption agency, to prepare an assessment that
2 shall include:

3 (A) Current search efforts for an absent parent or parents or
4 legal guardians.

5 (B) A review of the amount of and nature of any contact between
6 the child and his or her parents or legal guardians and other
7 members of his or her extended family since the time of placement.
8 Although the extended family of each child shall be reviewed on
9 a case-by-case basis, “extended family” for the purpose of this
10 subparagraph shall include, but not be limited to, the child’s
11 siblings, grandparents, aunts, and uncles.

12 (C) An evaluation of the child’s medical, developmental,
13 scholastic, mental, and emotional status.

14 (D) A preliminary assessment of the eligibility and commitment
15 of any identified prospective adoptive parent or legal guardian,
16 including the prospective tribal customary adoptive parent,
17 particularly the caretaker, to include a social history including
18 screening for criminal records and prior referrals for child abuse
19 or neglect, the capability to meet the child’s needs, and the
20 understanding of the legal and financial rights and responsibilities
21 of adoption and guardianship. If a proposed guardian is a relative
22 of the minor, the assessment shall also consider, but need not be
23 limited to, all of the factors specified in subdivision (a) of Section
24 361.3 and in Section 361.4.

25 (E) The relationship of the child to any identified prospective
26 adoptive parent or legal guardian, the duration and character of
27 the relationship, the degree of attachment of the child to the
28 prospective relative guardian or adoptive parent, the relative’s or
29 adoptive parent’s strong commitment to caring permanently for
30 the child, the motivation for seeking adoption or guardianship, a
31 statement from the child concerning placement and the adoption
32 or guardianship, and whether the child, if over 12 years of age,
33 has been consulted about the proposed relative guardianship
34 arrangements, unless the child’s age or physical, emotional, or
35 other condition precludes his or her meaningful response, and if
36 so, a description of the condition.

37 (F) A description of efforts to be made to identify a prospective
38 adoptive parent or legal guardian, including, but not limited to,
39 child-specific recruitment and listing on an adoption exchange
40 within the state or out of the state.

1 (G) An analysis of the likelihood that the child will be adopted
2 if parental rights are terminated.

3 (H) In the case of an Indian child, in addition to subparagraphs
4 (A) to (G), inclusive, an assessment of the likelihood that the child
5 will be adopted, when, in consultation with the child's tribe, a
6 tribal customary adoption, as defined in Section 366.24, is
7 recommended. If tribal customary adoption is recommended, the
8 assessment shall include an analysis of both of the following:

9 (i) Whether tribal customary adoption would or would not be
10 detrimental to the Indian child and the reasons for reaching that
11 conclusion.

12 (ii) Whether the Indian child cannot or should not be returned
13 to the home of the Indian parent or Indian custodian and the reasons
14 for reaching that conclusion.

15 (2) (A) A relative caregiver's preference for legal guardianship
16 over adoption, if it is due to circumstances that do not include an
17 unwillingness to accept legal or financial responsibility for the
18 child, shall not constitute the sole basis for recommending removal
19 of the child from the relative caregiver for purposes of adoptive
20 placement.

21 (B) Regardless of his or her immigration status, a relative
22 caregiver shall be given information regarding the permanency
23 options of guardianship and adoption, including the long-term
24 benefits and consequences of each option, prior to establishing
25 legal guardianship or pursuing adoption. If the proposed permanent
26 plan is guardianship with an approved relative caregiver for a
27 minor eligible for aid under the Kin-GAP Program, as provided
28 for in Article 4.7 (commencing with Section 11385) of Chapter 2
29 of Part 3 of Division 9, the relative caregiver shall be informed
30 about the terms and conditions of the negotiated agreement
31 pursuant to Section 11387 and shall agree to its execution prior to
32 the hearing held pursuant to Section 366.26. A copy of the executed
33 negotiated agreement shall be attached to the assessment.

34 (j) If, at any hearing held pursuant to Section 366.26, a
35 guardianship is established for the minor with an approved relative
36 caregiver, and juvenile court dependency is subsequently
37 dismissed, the minor shall be eligible for aid under the Kin-GAP
38 Program, as provided for in Article 4.5 (commencing with Section
39 11360) or Article 4.7 (commencing with Section 11385), as
40 applicable, of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 9.

(k) As used in this section, “relative” means an adult who is related to the minor by blood, adoption, or affinity within the fifth degree of kinship, including stepparents, stepsiblings, and all relatives whose status is preceded by the words “great,” “great-great,” or “grand,” or the spouse of any of those persons even if the marriage was terminated by death or dissolution. If the proposed permanent plan is guardianship with an approved relative caregiver for a minor eligible for aid under the Kin-GAP Program, as provided for in Article 4.7 (commencing with Section 11385) of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 9, “relative” as used in this section has the same meaning as “relative” as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 11391.

(l) For purposes of this section, evidence of any of the following circumstances shall not, in and of itself, be deemed a failure to provide or offer reasonable services:

(1) The child has been placed with a foster family that is eligible to adopt a child, or has been placed in a preadoptive home.

(2) The case plan includes services to make and finalize a permanent placement for the child if efforts to reunify fail.

(3) Services to make and finalize a permanent placement for the child, if efforts to reunify fail, are provided concurrently with services to reunify the family.

SEC. 5. Section 366.22 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

366.22. (a) (1) When a case has been continued pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) of subdivision (g) of Section 366.21, the permanency review hearing shall occur within 18 months after the date the child was originally removed from the physical custody of his or her parent or legal guardian. After considering the admissible and relevant evidence, the court shall order the return of the child to the physical custody of his or her parent or legal guardian unless the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the return of the child to his or her parent or legal guardian would create a substantial risk of detriment to the safety, protection, or physical or emotional well-being of the child. The social worker shall have the burden of establishing that detriment. At the permanency review hearing, the court shall consider the criminal history, obtained pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (f) of Section 16504.5, of the parent or legal guardian subsequent to the child’s removal, to the extent that the criminal record is

1 substantially related to the welfare of the child or the parent's or
2 legal guardian's ability to exercise custody and control regarding
3 his or her child, provided that the parent or legal guardian agreed
4 to submit fingerprint images to obtain criminal history information
5 as part of the case plan. The court shall also consider whether the
6 child can be returned to the custody of his or her parent who is
7 enrolled in a certified substance abuse treatment facility that allows
8 a dependent child to reside with his or her parent. The fact that the
9 parent is enrolled in a certified substance abuse treatment facility
10 shall not be, for that reason alone, prima facie evidence of
11 detriment. The failure of the parent or legal guardian to participate
12 regularly and make substantive progress in court-ordered treatment
13 programs shall be prima facie evidence that return would be
14 detrimental. In making its determination, the court shall review
15 and consider the social worker's report and recommendations and
16 the report and recommendations of any child advocate appointed
17 pursuant to Section 356.5; shall consider the efforts or progress,
18 or both, demonstrated by the parent or legal guardian and the extent
19 to which he or she availed himself or herself of services provided,
20 taking into account the particular barriers of a minor parent or a
21 nonminor dependent parent, or an incarcerated or institutionalized
22 parent's or legal guardian's access to those court-mandated services
23 and ability to maintain contact with his or her child; and shall make
24 appropriate findings pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 366.

25 (2) Whether or not the child is returned to his or her parent or
26 legal guardian, the court shall specify the factual basis for its
27 decision. If the child is not returned to a parent or legal guardian,
28 the court shall specify the factual basis for its conclusion that return
29 would be detrimental. If the child is not returned to his or her parent
30 or legal guardian, the court shall consider, and state for the record,
31 in-state and out-of-state options for the child's permanent
32 placement. If the child is placed out of the state, the court shall
33 make a determination whether the out-of-state placement continues
34 to be appropriate and in the best interests of the child.

35 (3) Unless the conditions in subdivision (b) are met and the
36 child is not returned to a parent or legal guardian at the permanency
37 review hearing, the court shall order that a hearing be held pursuant
38 to Section 366.26 in order to determine whether adoption, or, in
39 the case of an Indian child, in consultation with the child's tribe,
40 tribal customary adoption, guardianship, or continued placement

1 in foster care is the most appropriate plan for the child. On and
2 after January 1, 2012, a hearing pursuant to Section 366.26 shall
3 not be ordered if the child is a nonminor dependent, unless the
4 nonminor dependent is an Indian child, and tribal customary
5 adoption is recommended as the permanent plan. However, if the
6 court finds by clear and convincing evidence, based on the evidence
7 already presented to it, including a recommendation by the State
8 Department of Social Services when it is acting as an adoption
9 agency or by a county adoption agency, that there is a compelling
10 reason, as described in paragraph (5) of subdivision (g) of Section
11 366.21, for determining that a hearing held under Section 366.26
12 is not in the best interests of the child because the child is *currently*
13 not a proper subject for adoption and has no one willing to accept
14 legal guardianship as of the hearing date, the court may, only under
15 these circumstances, order that the child remain in foster care with
16 a permanent plan of return home, adoption, tribal customary
17 adoption in the case of an Indian child, legal guardianship, or
18 placement with a fit and willing relative, as appropriate. *If the*
19 *court determines it will not order a hearing pursuant to Section*
20 *366.26, and the child is not currently placed with a fit and willing*
21 *relative, the court shall order the provision of child-centered*
22 *specialized permanency services, as defined in Section 11400. If*
23 *the child is 16 years of age or older or is a nonminor dependent,*
24 *and no other permanent plan is appropriate at the time of the*
25 *hearing, the court may order another planned permanent living*
26 *arrangement, as described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (i) of*
27 *Section 16501, and order that the appropriateness of the*
28 *child's continuation in another planned permanent living*
29 *arrangement be assessed at the next review hearing held pursuant*
30 *to Section 366.3. If the court orders another planned permanent*
31 *living arrangement for a child 16 years of age or older, the court*
32 *shall order the provision of child-centered specialized permanency*
33 *services, as defined in Section 11400. The court shall make factual*
34 *findings identifying any barriers to achieving the permanent plan*
35 *as of the hearing date. On and after January 1, 2012, the nonminor*
36 *dependent's legal status as an adult is in and of itself a compelling*
37 *reason not to hold a hearing pursuant to Section 366.26. The court*
38 *may order that a nonminor dependent who otherwise is eligible*
39 *pursuant to Section 11403 remain in a planned, permanent living*
40 *arrangement. arrangement and may order the provision of*

1 *child-centered specialized permanency services, as defined in*
2 *Section 11400.* If the court orders that a child who is 10 years of
3 age or older remain in foster care, the court shall determine whether
4 the agency has made reasonable efforts to maintain the child's
5 relationships with individuals other than the child's siblings who
6 are important to the child, consistent with the child's best interests,
7 and may make any appropriate order to ensure that those
8 relationships are maintained. The hearing shall be held no later
9 than 120 days from the date of the permanency review hearing.
10 The court shall also order termination of reunification services to
11 the parent or legal guardian. The court shall continue to permit the
12 parent or legal guardian to visit the child unless it finds that
13 visitation would be detrimental to the child. The court shall
14 determine whether reasonable services have been offered or
15 provided to the parent or legal guardian. For purposes of this
16 subdivision, evidence of any of the following circumstances shall
17 not, in and of themselves, be deemed a failure to provide or offer
18 reasonable services:

19 (A) The child has been placed with a foster family that is eligible
20 to adopt a child, or has been placed in a preadoptive home.

21 (B) The case plan includes services to make and finalize a
22 permanent placement for the child if efforts to reunify fail.

23 (C) Services to make and finalize a permanent placement for
24 the child, if efforts to reunify fail, are provided concurrently with
25 services to reunify the family.

26 (b) If the child is not returned to a parent or legal guardian at
27 the permanency review hearing and the court determines by clear
28 and convincing evidence that the best interests of the child would
29 be met by the provision of additional reunification services to a
30 parent or legal guardian who is making significant and consistent
31 progress in a court-ordered residential substance abuse treatment
32 program, a parent who was either a minor parent or a nonminor
33 dependent parent at the time of the initial hearing making
34 significant and consistent progress in establishing a safe home for
35 the child's return, or a parent recently discharged from
36 incarceration, institutionalization, or the custody of the United
37 States Department of Homeland Security and making significant
38 and consistent progress in establishing a safe home for the child's
39 return, the court may continue the case for up to six months for a
40 subsequent permanency review hearing, provided that the hearing

1 shall occur within 24 months of the date the child was originally
2 taken from the physical custody of his or her parent or legal
3 guardian. The court shall continue the case only if it finds that
4 there is a substantial probability that the child will be returned to
5 the physical custody of his or her parent or legal guardian and
6 safely maintained in the home within the extended period of time
7 or that reasonable services have not been provided to the parent
8 or legal guardian. For the purposes of this section, in order to find
9 a substantial probability that the child will be returned to the
10 physical custody of his or her parent or legal guardian and safely
11 maintained in the home within the extended period of time, the
12 court shall be required to find all of the following:

13 (1) That the parent or legal guardian has consistently and
14 regularly contacted and visited with the child.

15 (2) That the parent or legal guardian has made significant and
16 consistent progress in the prior 18 months in resolving problems
17 that led to the child's removal from the home.

18 (3) The parent or legal guardian has demonstrated the capacity
19 and ability both to complete the objectives of his or her substance
20 abuse treatment plan as evidenced by reports from a substance
21 abuse provider as applicable, or complete a treatment plan
22 postdischarge from incarceration, institutionalization, or detention,
23 or following deportation to his or her country of origin and his or
24 her return to the United States, and to provide for the child's safety,
25 protection, physical and emotional well-being, and special needs.

26 For purposes of this subdivision, the court's decision to continue
27 the case based on a finding or substantial probability that the child
28 will be returned to the physical custody of his or her parent or legal
29 guardian is a compelling reason for determining that a hearing
30 held pursuant to Section 366.26 is not in the best interests of the
31 child.

32 The court shall inform the parent or legal guardian that if the
33 child cannot be returned home by the subsequent permanency
34 review hearing, a proceeding pursuant to Section 366.26 may be
35 instituted. The court shall not order that a hearing pursuant to
36 Section 366.26 be held unless there is clear and convincing
37 evidence that reasonable services have been provided or offered
38 to the parent or legal guardian.

39 (c) (1) Whenever a court orders that a hearing pursuant to
40 Section 366.26, including when a tribal customary adoption is

1 recommended, shall be held, it shall direct the agency supervising
2 the child and the county adoption agency, or the State Department
3 of Social Services when it is acting as an adoption agency, to
4 prepare an assessment that shall include:

5 (A) Current search efforts for an absent parent or parents.

6 (B) A review of the amount of and nature of any contact between
7 the child and his or her parents and other members of his or her
8 extended family since the time of placement. Although the
9 extended family of each child shall be reviewed on a case-by-case
10 basis, “extended family” for the purposes of this subparagraph
11 shall include, but not be limited to, the child’s siblings,
12 grandparents, aunts, and uncles.

13 (C) An evaluation of the child’s medical, developmental,
14 scholastic, mental, and emotional status.

15 (D) A preliminary assessment of the eligibility and commitment
16 of any identified prospective adoptive parent or legal guardian,
17 particularly the caretaker, to include a social history including
18 screening for criminal records and prior referrals for child abuse
19 or neglect, the capability to meet the child’s needs, and the
20 understanding of the legal and financial rights and responsibilities
21 of adoption and guardianship. If a proposed legal guardian is a
22 relative of the minor, the assessment shall also consider, but need
23 not be limited to, all of the factors specified in subdivision (a) of
24 Section 361.3 and Section 361.4.

25 (E) The relationship of the child to any identified prospective
26 adoptive parent or legal guardian, the duration and character of
27 the relationship, the degree of attachment of the child to the
28 prospective relative guardian or adoptive parent, the relative’s or
29 adoptive parent’s strong commitment to caring permanently for
30 the child, the motivation for seeking adoption or legal guardianship,
31 a statement from the child concerning placement and the adoption
32 or legal guardianship, and whether the child, if over 12 years of
33 age, has been consulted about the proposed relative guardianship
34 arrangements, unless the child’s age or physical, emotional, or
35 other condition precludes his or her meaningful response, ~~and~~ *and*,
36 if so, a description of the condition.

37 (F) An analysis of the likelihood that the child will be adopted
38 if parental rights are terminated.

39 (G) In the case of an Indian child, in addition to subparagraphs

40 (A) to (F), inclusive, an assessment of the likelihood that the child

1 will be adopted, when, in consultation with the child's tribe, a
2 tribal customary adoption, as defined in Section 366.24, is
3 recommended. If tribal customary adoption is recommended, the
4 assessment shall include an analysis of both of the following:

5 (i) Whether tribal customary adoption would or would not be
6 detrimental to the Indian child and the reasons for reaching that
7 conclusion.

8 (ii) Whether the Indian child cannot or should not be returned
9 to the home of the Indian parent or Indian custodian and the reasons
10 for reaching that conclusion.

11 (2) (A) A relative caregiver's preference for legal guardianship
12 over adoption, if it is due to circumstances that do not include an
13 unwillingness to accept legal or financial responsibility for the
14 child, shall not constitute the sole basis for recommending removal
15 of the child from the relative caregiver for purposes of adoptive
16 placement.

17 (B) Regardless of his or her immigration status, a relative
18 caregiver shall be given information regarding the permanency
19 options of guardianship and adoption, including the long-term
20 benefits and consequences of each option, prior to establishing
21 legal guardianship or pursuing adoption. If the proposed permanent
22 plan is guardianship with an approved relative caregiver for a
23 minor eligible for aid under the Kin-GAP Program, as provided
24 for in Article 4.7 (commencing with Section 11385) of Chapter 2
25 of Part 3 of Division 9, the relative caregiver shall be informed
26 about the terms and conditions of the negotiated agreement
27 pursuant to Section 11387 and shall agree to its execution prior to
28 the hearing held pursuant to Section 366.26. A copy of the executed
29 negotiated agreement shall be attached to the assessment.

30 (d) This section shall become operative January 1, 1999. If at
31 any hearing held pursuant to Section 366.26, a legal guardianship
32 is established for the minor with an approved relative caregiver,
33 and juvenile court dependency is subsequently dismissed, the minor
34 shall be eligible for aid under the Kin-GAP Program, as provided
35 for in Article 4.5 (commencing with Section 11360) or Article 4.7
36 (commencing with Section 11385), as applicable, of Chapter 2 of
37 Part 3 of Division 9.

38 (e) As used in this section, "relative" means an adult who is
39 related to the child by blood, adoption, or affinity within the fifth
40 degree of kinship, including stepparents, stepsiblings, and all

1 relatives whose status is preceded by the words “great,”
2 “great-great,” or “grand,” or the spouse of any of those persons
3 even if the marriage was terminated by death or dissolution. If the
4 proposed permanent plan is guardianship with an approved relative
5 caregiver for a minor eligible for aid under the Kin-GAP Program,
6 as provided for in Article 4.7 (commencing with Section 11385)
7 of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 9, “relative” as used in this
8 section has the same meaning as “relative” as defined in
9 subdivision (c) of Section 11391.

10 SEC. 6. Section 366.25 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
11 is amended to read:

12 366.25. (a) (1) When a case has been continued pursuant to
13 subdivision (b) of Section 366.22, the subsequent permanency
14 review hearing shall occur within 24 months after the date the
15 child was originally removed from the physical custody of his or
16 her parent or legal guardian. After considering the relevant and
17 admissible evidence, the court shall order the return of the child
18 to the physical custody of his or her parent or legal guardian unless
19 the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the return
20 of the child to his or her parent or legal guardian would create a
21 substantial risk of detriment to the safety, protection, or physical
22 or emotional well-being of the child. The social worker shall have
23 the burden of establishing that detriment. At the subsequent
24 permanency review hearing, the court shall consider the criminal
25 history, obtained pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (f) of
26 Section 16504.5, of the parent or legal guardian subsequent to the
27 child’s removal to the extent that the criminal record is substantially
28 related to the welfare of the child or parent’s or legal guardian’s
29 ability to exercise custody and control regarding his or her child
30 provided that the parent or legal guardian agreed to submit
31 fingerprint images to obtain criminal history information as part
32 of the case plan. The court shall also consider whether the child
33 can be returned to the custody of a parent who is enrolled in a
34 certified substance abuse treatment facility that allows a dependent
35 child to reside with his or her parent. The fact that the parent is
36 enrolled in a certified substance abuse treatment facility shall not
37 be, for that reason alone, prima facie evidence of detriment. The
38 failure of the parent or legal guardian to participate regularly and
39 make substantive progress in court-ordered treatment programs
40 shall be prima facie evidence that return would be detrimental. In

1 making its determination, the court shall review and consider the
2 social worker's report and recommendations and the report and
3 recommendations of any child advocate appointed pursuant to
4 Section 356.5; shall consider the efforts or progress, or both,
5 demonstrated by the parent or legal guardian and the extent to
6 which he or she availed himself or herself of services provided;
7 and shall make appropriate findings pursuant to subdivision (a) of
8 Section 366.

9 (2) Whether or not the child is returned to his or her parent or
10 legal guardian, the court shall specify the factual basis for its
11 decision. If the child is not returned to a parent or legal guardian,
12 the court shall specify the factual basis for its conclusion that return
13 would be detrimental. If the child is not returned to his or her parent
14 or legal guardian, the court shall consider and state for the record,
15 in-state and out-of-state options for the child's permanent
16 placement. If the child is placed out of the state, the court shall
17 make a determination whether the out-of-state placement continues
18 to be appropriate and in the best interests of the child.

19 (3) If the child is not returned to a parent or legal guardian at
20 the subsequent permanency review hearing, the court shall order
21 that a hearing be held pursuant to Section 366.26 in order to
22 determine whether adoption, or, in the case of an Indian child,
23 tribal customary adoption, guardianship, or, in the case of a child
24 16 years of age or older when no other permanent plan is *currently*
25 appropriate, another planned permanent living arrangement is the
26 most appropriate plan for the child. On and after January 1, 2012,
27 a hearing pursuant to Section 366.26 shall not be ordered if the
28 child is a nonminor dependent, unless the nonminor dependent is
29 an Indian child and tribal customary adoption is recommended as
30 the permanent plan. However, if the court finds by clear and
31 convincing evidence, based on the evidence already presented to
32 it, including a recommendation by the State Department of Social
33 Services when it is acting as an adoption agency or by a county
34 adoption agency, that there is a compelling reason, as described
35 in paragraph (5) of subdivision (g) of Section 366.21, for
36 determining that a hearing held under Section 366.26 is not in the
37 best interest of the child because the child is not *currently* a proper
38 subject for adoption or, in the case of an Indian child, tribal
39 customary adoption, and has no one willing to accept legal
40 guardianship as of the hearing date, then the court may, only under

1 these circumstances, order that the child remain in foster care with
2 a permanent plan of return home, adoption, tribal customary
3 adoption in the case of an Indian child, legal guardianship, or
4 placement with a fit and willing relative, as appropriate. *If the*
5 *court determines it will not order a hearing pursuant to Section*
6 *366.26, and the child is not currently placed with a fit and willing*
7 *relative, the court shall order the provision of child-centered*
8 *specialized permanency services, as defined in Section 11400. If*
9 *the child is 16 years of age or older or is a nonminor dependent,*
10 *and no other permanent plan is appropriate at the time of the*
11 *hearing, the court may order another planned permanent living*
12 *arrangement, as described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (i) of*
13 *Section 16501, and order that the appropriateness of the*
14 *child's continuation in another planned permanent living*
15 *arrangement be assessed at the next review hearing held pursuant*
16 *to Section 366. If the court orders another planned permanent*
17 *living arrangement for a child 16 years of age or older, the court*
18 *shall order the provision of child-centered specialized permanency*
19 *services, as defined in Section 11400, and that the appropriateness*
20 *of the child's continuation in another planned permanent living*
21 *arrangement be assessed at the next review hearing held pursuant*
22 *to Section 366.3. If the court orders another planned permanent*
23 *living arrangement for a nonminor dependent, the court may order*
24 *the same services for the nonminor dependent.* The court shall
25 make factual findings identifying any barriers to achieving the
26 permanent plan as of the hearing date. On and after January 1,
27 2012, the nonminor dependent's legal status as an adult is in and
28 of itself a compelling reason not to hold a hearing pursuant to
29 Section 366.26. The court may order that a nonminor dependent
30 who otherwise is eligible pursuant to Section 11403 remain in a
31 planned, permanent living arrangement. If the court orders that a
32 child who is 10 years of age or older remain in foster care, the
33 court shall determine whether the agency has made reasonable
34 efforts to maintain the child's relationships with individuals other
35 than the child's siblings who are important to the child, consistent
36 with the child's best interests, and may make any appropriate order
37 to ensure that those relationships are maintained. The hearing shall
38 be held no later than 120 days from the date of the subsequent
39 permanency review hearing. The court shall also order termination
40 of reunification services to the parent or legal guardian. The court

1 shall continue to permit the parent or legal guardian to visit the
2 child unless it finds that visitation would be detrimental to the
3 child. The court shall determine whether reasonable services have
4 been offered or provided to the parent or legal guardian. For
5 purposes of this paragraph, evidence of any of the following
6 circumstances shall not, in and of themselves, be deemed a failure
7 to provide or offer reasonable services:

8 (A) The child has been placed with a foster family that is eligible
9 to adopt a child, or has been placed in a preadoptive home.

10 (B) The case plan includes services to make and finalize a
11 permanent placement for the child if efforts to reunify fail.

12 (C) Services to make and finalize a permanent placement for
13 the child, if efforts to reunify fail, are provided concurrently with
14 services to reunify the family.

15 (b) (1) Whenever a court orders that a hearing pursuant to
16 Section 366.26 shall be held, it shall direct the agency supervising
17 the child and the county adoption agency, or the State Department
18 of Social Services when it is acting as an adoption agency, to
19 prepare an assessment that shall include:

20 (A) Current search efforts for an absent parent or parents.

21 (B) A review of the amount of, and nature of, any contact
22 between the child and his or her parents and other members of his
23 or her extended family since the time of placement. Although the
24 extended family of each child shall be reviewed on a case-by-case
25 basis, “extended family” for the purposes of this paragraph shall
26 include, but not be limited to, the child’s siblings, grandparents,
27 aunts, and uncles.

28 (C) An evaluation of the child’s medical, developmental,
29 scholastic, mental, and emotional status.

30 (D) A preliminary assessment of the eligibility and commitment
31 of any identified prospective adoptive parent or legal guardian,
32 including a prospective tribal customary adoptive parent,
33 particularly the caretaker, to include a social history including
34 screening for criminal records and prior referrals for child abuse
35 or neglect, the capability to meet the child’s needs, and the
36 understanding of the legal and financial rights and responsibilities
37 of adoption and guardianship. If a proposed legal guardian is a
38 relative of the minor, the assessment shall also consider, but need
39 not be limited to, all of the factors specified in subdivision (a) of
40 Section 361.3 and in Section 361.4.

(E) The relationship of the child to any identified prospective adoptive parent or legal guardian, including a prospective tribal customary adoptive parent, the duration and character of the relationship, the degree of attachment of the child to the prospective relative guardian or adoptive parent, the relative's or adoptive parent's strong commitment to caring permanently for the child, the motivation for seeking adoption or legal guardianship, a statement from the child concerning placement and the adoption or legal guardianship, and whether the child, if over 12 years of age, has been consulted about the proposed relative guardianship arrangements, unless the child's age or physical, emotional, or other condition precludes his or her meaningful response, ~~and~~ *and*, if so, a description of the condition.

(F) An analysis of the likelihood that the child will be adopted if parental rights are terminated.

(G) In the case of an Indian child, in addition to subparagraphs (A) to (F), inclusive, an assessment of the likelihood that the child will be adopted, when, in consultation with the child's tribe, a tribal customary adoption, as defined in Section 366.24, is recommended. If tribal customary adoption is recommended, the assessment shall include an analysis of both of the following:

(i) Whether tribal customary adoption would or would not be detrimental to the Indian child and the reasons for reaching that conclusion.

(ii) Whether the Indian child cannot or should not be returned to the home of the Indian parent or Indian custodian and the reasons for reaching that conclusion.

(2) (A) A relative caregiver's preference for legal guardianship over adoption, if it is due to circumstances that do not include an unwillingness to accept legal or financial responsibility for the child, shall not constitute the sole basis for recommending removal of the child from the relative caregiver for purposes of adoptive placement.

(B) Regardless of his or her immigration status, a relative caregiver shall be given information regarding the permanency options of guardianship and adoption, including the long-term benefits and consequences of each option, prior to establishing legal guardianship or pursuing adoption. If the proposed permanent plan is guardianship with an approved relative caregiver for a minor eligible for aid under the Kin-GAP Program, as provided

1 for in Article 4.7 (commencing with Section 11385) of Chapter 2
2 of Part 3 of Division 9, the relative caregiver shall be informed
3 about the terms and conditions of the negotiated agreement
4 pursuant to Section 11387 and shall agree to its execution prior to
5 the hearing held pursuant to Section 366.26. A copy of the executed
6 negotiated agreement shall be attached to the assessment.

7 (c) If, at any hearing held pursuant to Section 366.26, a
8 guardianship is established for the minor with an approved relative
9 caregiver, and juvenile court dependency is subsequently
10 dismissed, the minor shall be eligible for aid under the Kin-GAP
11 Program, as provided for in Article 4.5 (commencing with Section
12 11360) or Article 4.7 (commencing with Section 11385), as
13 applicable, of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 9.

14 (d) As used in this section, “relative” means an adult who is
15 related to the minor by blood, adoption, or affinity within the fifth
16 degree of kinship, including stepparents, stepsiblings, and all
17 relatives whose status is preceded by the words “great,”
18 “great-great,” or “grand,” or the spouse of any of those persons
19 even if the marriage was terminated by death or dissolution. If the
20 proposed permanent plan is guardianship with an approved relative
21 caregiver for a minor eligible for aid under the Kin-GAP Program,
22 as provided in Article 4.7 (commencing with Section 11385) of
23 Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 9, “relative” as used in this section
24 has the same meaning as “relative” as defined in subdivision (c)
25 of Section 11391.

26 SEC. 7. Section 366.26 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
27 is amended to read:

28 366.26. (a) This section applies to children who are adjudged
29 dependent children of the juvenile court pursuant to subdivision
30 (d) of Section 360. The procedures specified herein are the
31 exclusive procedures for conducting these hearings; Part 2
32 (commencing with Section 3020) of Division 8 of the Family Code
33 is not applicable to these proceedings. Section 8616.5 of the Family
34 Code is applicable and available to all dependent children meeting
35 the requirements of that section, if the postadoption contact
36 agreement has been entered into voluntarily. For children who are
37 adjudged dependent children of the juvenile court pursuant to
38 subdivision (d) of Section 360, this section and Sections 8604,
39 8605, 8606, and 8700 of the Family Code and Chapter 5
40 (commencing with Section 7660) of Part 3 of Division 12 of the

1 Family Code specify the exclusive procedures for permanently
2 terminating parental rights with regard to, or establishing legal
3 guardianship of, the child while the child is a dependent child of
4 the juvenile court.

5 (b) At the hearing, which shall be held in juvenile court for all
6 children who are dependents of the juvenile court, the court, in
7 order to provide stable, permanent homes for these children, shall
8 review the report as specified in Section 361.5, 366.21, 366.22, or
9 366.25, shall indicate that the court has read and considered it,
10 shall receive other evidence that the parties may present, and then
11 shall make findings and orders in the following order of preference:

12 (1) Terminate the rights of the parent or parents and order that
13 the child be placed for adoption and, upon the filing of a petition
14 for adoption in the juvenile court, order that a hearing be set. The
15 court shall proceed with the adoption after the appellate rights of
16 the natural parents have been exhausted.

17 (2) Order, without termination of parental rights, the plan of
18 tribal customary adoption, as described in Section 366.24, through
19 tribal custom, traditions, or law of the Indian child's tribe, and
20 upon the court affording the tribal customary adoption order full
21 faith and credit at the continued selection and implementation
22 hearing, order that a hearing be set pursuant to paragraph (2) of
23 subdivision (e).

24 (3) Appoint a relative or relatives with whom the child is
25 currently residing as legal guardian or guardians for the child, and
26 order that letters of guardianship issue.

27 (4) On making a finding under paragraph (3) of subdivision (c),
28 identify adoption or tribal customary adoption as the permanent
29 placement goal and order that efforts be made to locate an
30 appropriate adoptive family for the child within a period not to
31 exceed 180 days.

32 (5) Appoint a nonrelative legal guardian for the child and order
33 that letters of guardianship issue.

34 (6) Order that the child be permanently placed with a fit and
35 willing relative, subject to the periodic review of the juvenile court
36 under Section 366.3.

37 (7) Order that the child remain in foster care, subject to the
38 conditions described in paragraph (4) of subdivision (c) and the
39 periodic review of the juvenile court under Section 366.3.

1 In choosing among the above alternatives the court shall proceed
2 pursuant to subdivision (c).

3 (c) (1) If the court determines, based on the assessment provided
4 as ordered under subdivision (i) of Section 366.21, subdivision (b)
5 of Section 366.22, or subdivision (b) of Section 366.25, and any
6 other relevant evidence, by a clear and convincing standard, that
7 it is likely the child will be adopted, the court shall terminate
8 parental rights and order the child placed for adoption. The fact
9 that the child is not yet placed in a preadoptive home nor with a
10 relative or foster family who is prepared to adopt the child, shall
11 not constitute a basis for the court to conclude that it is not likely
12 the child will be adopted. A finding under subdivision (b) or
13 paragraph (1) of subdivision (e) of Section 361.5 that reunification
14 services shall not be offered, under subdivision (e) of Section
15 366.21 that the whereabouts of a parent have been unknown for
16 six months or that the parent has failed to visit or contact the child
17 for six months, or that the parent has been convicted of a felony
18 indicating parental unfitness, or, under Section 366.21 or 366.22,
19 that the court has continued to remove the child from the custody
20 of the parent or guardian and has terminated reunification services,
21 shall constitute a sufficient basis for termination of parental rights.
22 Under these circumstances, the court shall terminate parental rights
23 unless either of the following applies:

24 (A) The child is living with a relative who is unable or unwilling
25 to adopt the child because of circumstances that do not include an
26 unwillingness to accept legal or financial responsibility for the
27 child, but who is willing and capable of providing the child with
28 a stable and permanent environment through legal guardianship,
29 and the removal of the child from the custody of his or her relative
30 would be detrimental to the emotional well-being of the child. For
31 purposes of an Indian child, "relative" shall include an "extended
32 family member," as defined in the federal Indian Child Welfare
33 Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903(2)).

34 (B) The court finds a compelling reason for determining that
35 termination would be detrimental to the child due to one or more
36 of the following circumstances:

37 (i) The parents have maintained regular visitation and contact
38 with the child and the child would benefit from continuing the
39 relationship.

1 (ii) A child 12 years of age or older objects to termination of
2 parental rights.

3 (iii) The child is placed in a residential treatment facility,
4 adoption is *currently* unlikely or undesirable, and continuation of
5 parental rights will not prevent finding the child a permanent family
6 placement if the parents cannot resume custody when residential
7 care is no longer needed. *If the court determines that adoption is*
8 *currently unlikely or undesirable, the court shall order*
9 *child-centered specialized permanency services, as defined in*
10 *Section 11400, and assess progress towards placement in a*
11 *permanent family at the next review hearing held pursuant to*
12 *Section 366.3.*

13 (iv) The child is living with a foster parent or Indian custodian
14 who is unable or unwilling to adopt the child because of
15 exceptional circumstances, that do not include an unwillingness
16 to accept legal or financial responsibility for the child, but who is
17 willing and capable of providing the child with a stable and
18 permanent environment and the removal of the child from the
19 physical custody of his or her foster parent or Indian custodian
20 would be detrimental to the emotional well-being of the child. This
21 clause does not apply to any child who is either (I) under six years
22 of age or (II) a member of a sibling group where at least one child
23 is under six years of age and the siblings are, or should be,
24 permanently placed together.

25 (v) There would be substantial interference with a child's sibling
26 relationship, taking into consideration the nature and extent of the
27 relationship, including, but not limited to, whether the child was
28 raised with a sibling in the same home, whether the child shared
29 significant common experiences or has existing close and strong
30 bonds with a sibling, and whether ongoing contact is in the child's
31 best interest, including the child's long-term emotional interest,
32 as compared to the benefit of legal permanence through adoption.

33 (vi) The child is an Indian child and there is a compelling reason
34 for determining that termination of parental rights would not be
35 in the best interest of the child, including, but not limited to:

36 (I) Termination of parental rights would substantially interfere
37 with the child's connection to his or her tribal community or the
38 child's tribal membership rights.

1 (II) The child's tribe has identified guardianship, foster care
2 with a fit and willing relative, tribal customary adoption, or another
3 planned permanent living arrangement for the child.

4 (III) The child is a nonminor dependent, and the nonminor and
5 the nonminor's tribe have identified tribal customary adoption for
6 the nonminor.

7 (C) For purposes of subparagraph (B), in the case of tribal
8 customary adoptions, Section 366.24 shall apply.

9 (D) If the court finds that termination of parental rights would
10 be detrimental to the child pursuant to clause (i), (ii), (iii), (iv),
11 (v), or (vi), it shall state its reasons in writing or on the record.

12 (2) The court shall not terminate parental rights if:

13 (A) At each hearing at which the court was required to consider
14 reasonable efforts or services, the court has found that reasonable
15 efforts were not made or that reasonable services were not offered
16 or provided.

17 (B) In the case of an Indian child:

18 (i) At the hearing terminating parental rights, the court has found
19 that active efforts were not made as required in Section 361.7.

20 (ii) The court does not make a determination at the hearing
21 terminating parental rights, supported by evidence beyond a
22 reasonable doubt, including testimony of one or more "qualified
23 expert witnesses" as defined in Section 224.6, that the continued
24 custody of the child by the parent is likely to result in serious
25 emotional or physical damage to the child.

26 (iii) The court has ordered tribal customary adoption pursuant
27 to Section 366.24.

28 (3) If the court finds that termination of parental rights would
29 not be detrimental to the child pursuant to paragraph (1) and that
30 the child has a probability for adoption but is difficult to place for
31 adoption and there is no identified or available prospective adoptive
32 parent, the court may identify adoption as the permanent placement
33 goal and without terminating parental rights, order that efforts be
34 made to locate an appropriate adoptive family for the child, within
35 the state or out of the state, within a period not to exceed 180 days.
36 During this 180-day period, the public agency responsible for
37 seeking adoptive parents for each child shall, to the extent possible,
38 ask each child who is 10 years of age or older, to identify any
39 individuals, other than the child's siblings, who are important to
40 the child, in order to identify potential adoptive parents. The public

1 agency may ask any other child to provide that information, as
2 appropriate. During the 180-day period, the public agency shall,
3 to the extent possible, contact other private and public adoption
4 agencies regarding the availability of the child for adoption. During
5 the 180-day period, the public agency shall conduct the search for
6 adoptive parents in the same manner as prescribed for children in
7 Sections 8708 and 8709 of the Family Code. At the expiration of
8 this period, another hearing shall be held and the court shall
9 proceed pursuant to paragraph (1), (2), (3), (5), or (6) of subdivision
10 (b). For purposes of this section, a child may only be found to be
11 difficult to place for adoption if there is no identified or available
12 prospective adoptive parent for the child because of the child's
13 membership in a sibling group, or the presence of a diagnosed
14 medical, physical, or mental handicap, or the child is seven years
15 of age or more. *If the child is found to be difficult to place for*
16 *adoption, the court shall order child-centered specialized*
17 *permanency services, as defined in Section 11400.*

18 (4) (A) If the court finds that adoption of the child or
19 termination of parental rights is not in the best interest of the child,
20 because one of the conditions in clause (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), or
21 (vi) of subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) or in paragraph (2)
22 applies, the court shall order that the present caretakers or other
23 appropriate persons shall become legal guardians of the child, or,
24 in the case of an Indian child, consider a tribal customary adoption
25 pursuant to Section 366.24. Legal guardianship shall be considered
26 before continuing the child in foster care under any other permanent
27 plan, if it is in the best interests of the child and if a suitable
28 guardian can be found. If the child continues in foster care, the
29 court shall make factual findings identifying any barriers to
30 achieving adoption, tribal customary adoption in the case of an
31 Indian child, legal guardianship, or placement with a fit and willing
32 relative as of the date of the ~~hearing~~. *hearing and shall order the*
33 *agency to begin providing child-centered specialized permanency*
34 *services, as defined in Section 11400.* A child who is 10 years of
35 age or older, shall be asked to identify any individuals, other than
36 the child's siblings, who are important to the child, in order to
37 identify potential guardians or, in the case of an Indian child,
38 prospective tribal customary adoptive parents. The agency may
39 ask any other child to provide that information, as appropriate.

1 (B) (i) If the child is living with an approved relative who is
2 willing and capable of providing a stable and permanent
3 environment, but not willing to become a legal guardian as of the
4 hearing date, the court shall order a permanent plan of placement
5 with a fit and willing relative, and the child shall not be removed
6 from the home if the court finds the removal would be seriously
7 detrimental to the emotional well-being of the child because the
8 child has substantial psychological ties to the relative caretaker.

9 (ii) If the child is living with a nonrelative caregiver who is
10 willing and capable of providing a stable and permanent
11 ~~environment~~, *environment* but *is* not willing to become a legal
12 guardian as of the hearing date, the court shall order that the child
13 remain in foster care with a permanent plan of return home,
14 adoption, legal guardianship, or placement with a fit and willing
15 relative, ~~as appropriate~~. *appropriate, and shall order the agency*
16 *supervising the child and the county adoption agency, or the State*
17 *Department of Social Services when it is acting as an adoption*
18 *agency, to begin providing child-centered specialized permanency*
19 *services, as defined in Section 11400. If the child is 16 years of*
20 *age or older, or a nonminor dependent, and no other permanent*
21 *plan is appropriate at the time of the hearing, the court may order*
22 *another planned permanent living arrangement, as described in*
23 *paragraph (2) of subdivision (i) of Section 16501, and order*
24 *the provision of child-centered specialized permanency services,*
25 *as defined in Section 11400. If the child is 16 years of age or older,*
26 *the appropriateness of the child's continuation in a planned*
27 *permanent living arrangement shall be assessed at the next review*
28 *hearing held pursuant to Section 366.3. If the order of another*
29 *planned permanent living arrangement is made for a nonminor*
30 *dependent, the court may order the provision of child-centered*
31 *specialized permanency services, as defined in Section 11400.*
32 Regardless of the age of the child, the child shall not be removed
33 from the home if the court finds the removal would be seriously
34 detrimental to the emotional well-being of the child because the
35 child has substantial psychological ties to the caregiver.

36 (iii) If the child is living in a group home or, on or after January
37 1, 2017, a short-term residential treatment center, the court shall
38 order that the child remain in foster care with a permanent plan of
39 return home, adoption, tribal customary adoption in the case of an
40 Indian child, legal guardianship, or placement with a fit and willing

1 relative, as appropriate. If the child is 16 years of age or older, or
2 a nonminor dependent, and no other permanent plan is appropriate
3 at the time of the hearing, the court may order another planned
4 permanent living arrangement, as described in paragraph (2) of
5 subdivision (i) of Section 16501. *If the child is 16 years or older,*
6 *the court shall order the provision of child-centered specialized*
7 *permanency services, as defined in Section 11400, and order that*
8 *the appropriateness of the child's continuation in a planned*
9 *permanent living arrangement be assessed again at the next review*
10 *hearing held pursuant to Section 366.3. If the order of another*
11 *planned permanent living arrangement is made for a nonminor*
12 *dependent, the court may order the provision of child-centered*
13 *specialized permanency services, as defined in Section 11400.*

14 (C) The court shall also make an order for visitation with the
15 parents or guardians unless the court finds by a preponderance of
16 the evidence that the visitation would be detrimental to the physical
17 or emotional well-being of the child.

18 (5) If the court finds that the child should not be placed for
19 adoption, that legal guardianship shall not be established, that
20 placement with a fit and willing relative is not appropriate as of
21 the hearing date, and that there are no suitable foster parents except
22 exclusive-use homes available to provide the child with a stable
23 and permanent environment, the court may order the care, custody,
24 and control of the child transferred from the county welfare
25 department to a licensed foster family agency. The court shall
26 consider the written recommendation of the county welfare director
27 regarding the suitability of the transfer. The transfer shall be subject
28 to further court orders.

29 The licensed foster family agency shall place the child in a
30 suitable licensed or exclusive-use home that has been certified by
31 the agency as meeting licensing standards. The licensed foster
32 family agency shall be responsible for supporting the child and
33 providing appropriate services to the child, including those services
34 ordered by the court. Responsibility for the support of the child
35 shall not, in and of itself, create liability on the part of the foster
36 family agency to third persons injured by the child. Those children
37 whose care, custody, and control are transferred to a foster family
38 agency shall not be eligible for foster care maintenance payments
39 or child welfare services, except for emergency response services
40 pursuant to Section 16504.

1 (d) The proceeding for the appointment of a guardian for a child
2 who is a dependent of the juvenile court shall be in the juvenile
3 court. If the court finds pursuant to this section that legal
4 guardianship is the appropriate permanent plan, it shall appoint
5 the legal guardian and issue letters of guardianship. The assessment
6 prepared pursuant to subdivision (g) of Section 361.5, subdivision
7 (i) of Section 366.21, subdivision (b) of Section 366.22, and
8 subdivision (b) of Section 366.25 shall be read and considered by
9 the court prior to the appointment, and this shall be reflected in
10 the minutes of the court. The person preparing the assessment may
11 be called and examined by any party to the proceeding.

12 (e) (1) The proceeding for the adoption of a child who is a
13 dependent of the juvenile court shall be in the juvenile court if the
14 court finds pursuant to this section that adoption is the appropriate
15 permanent plan and the petition for adoption is filed in the juvenile
16 court. Upon the filing of a petition for adoption, the juvenile court
17 shall order that an adoption hearing be set. The court shall proceed
18 with the adoption after the appellate rights of the natural parents
19 have been exhausted. The full report required by Section 8715 of
20 the Family Code shall be read and considered by the court prior
21 to the adoption and this shall be reflected in the minutes of the
22 court. The person preparing the report may be called and examined
23 by any party to the proceeding. It is the intent of the Legislature,
24 pursuant to this subdivision, to give potential adoptive parents the
25 option of filing in the juvenile court the petition for the adoption
26 of a child who is a dependent of the juvenile court. Nothing in this
27 section is intended to prevent the filing of a petition for adoption
28 in any other court as permitted by law, instead of in the juvenile
29 court.

30 (2) In the case of an Indian child, if the Indian child's tribe has
31 elected a permanent plan of tribal customary adoption, the court,
32 upon receiving the tribal customary adoption order will afford the
33 tribal customary adoption order full faith and credit to the same
34 extent that the court would afford full faith and credit to the public
35 acts, records, judicial proceedings, and judgments of any other
36 entity. Upon a determination that the tribal customary adoption
37 order may be afforded full faith and credit, consistent with Section
38 224.5, the court shall thereafter order a hearing to finalize the
39 adoption be set upon the filing of the adoption petition. The
40 prospective tribal customary adoptive parents and the child who

1 is the subject of the tribal customary adoption petition shall appear
2 before the court for the finalization hearing. The court shall
3 thereafter issue an order of adoption pursuant to Section 366.24.

4 (3) If a child who is the subject of a finalized tribal customary
5 adoption shows evidence of a developmental disability or mental
6 illness as a result of conditions existing before the tribal customary
7 adoption to the extent that the child cannot be relinquished to a
8 licensed adoption agency on the grounds that the child is considered
9 ~~unadoptable~~, *difficult to place for adoption as pursuant to*
10 *paragraph (3) of subdivision (c)* and of which condition the tribal
11 customary adoptive parent or parents had no knowledge or notice
12 before the entry of the tribal customary adoption order, a petition
13 setting forth those facts may be filed by the tribal customary
14 adoptive parent or parents with the juvenile court that granted the
15 tribal customary adoption petition. If these facts are proved to the
16 satisfaction of the juvenile court, it may make an order setting
17 aside the tribal customary adoption order. The set-aside petition
18 shall be filed within five years of the issuance of the tribal
19 customary adoption order. The court clerk shall immediately notify
20 the child's tribe and the department in Sacramento of the petition
21 within 60 days after the notice of filing of the petition. The
22 department shall file a full report with the court and shall appear
23 before the court for the purpose of representing the child. Whenever
24 a final decree of tribal customary adoption has been vacated or set
25 aside, the child shall be returned to the custody of the county in
26 which the proceeding for tribal customary adoption was finalized.
27 The biological parent or parents of the child may petition for return
28 of custody. The disposition of the child after the court has entered
29 an order to set aside a tribal customary adoption shall include
30 consultation with the child's tribe.

31 (f) At the beginning of any proceeding pursuant to this section,
32 if the child or the parents are not being represented by previously
33 retained or appointed counsel, the court shall proceed as follows:

34 (1) In accordance with subdivision (c) of Section 317, if a child
35 before the court is without counsel, the court shall appoint counsel
36 unless the court finds that the child would not benefit from the
37 appointment of counsel. The court shall state on the record its
38 reasons for that finding.

39 (2) If a parent appears without counsel and is unable to afford
40 counsel, the court shall appoint counsel for the parent, unless this

1 representation is knowingly and intelligently waived. The same
2 counsel shall not be appointed to represent both the child and his
3 or her parent. The public defender or private counsel may be
4 appointed as counsel for the parent.

5 (3) Private counsel appointed under this section shall receive a
6 reasonable sum for compensation and expenses, the amount of
7 which shall be determined by the court. The amount shall be paid
8 by the real parties in interest, other than the child, in any
9 proportions the court deems just. However, if the court finds that
10 any of the real parties in interest are unable to afford counsel, the
11 amount shall be paid out of the general fund of the county.

12 (g) The court may continue the proceeding for a period of time
13 not to exceed 30 days as necessary to appoint counsel, and to
14 enable counsel to become acquainted with the case.

15 (h) (1) At all proceedings under this section, the court shall
16 consider the wishes of the child and shall act in the best interests
17 of the child.

18 (2) In accordance with Section 349, the child shall be present
19 in court if the child or the child's counsel so requests or the court
20 so orders. If the child is 10 years of age or older and is not present
21 at a hearing held pursuant to this section, the court shall determine
22 whether the minor was properly notified of his or her right to attend
23 the hearing and inquire as to the reason why the child is not present.

24 (3) (A) The testimony of the child may be taken in chambers
25 and outside the presence of the child's parent or parents, if the
26 child's parent or parents are represented by counsel, the counsel
27 is present, and any of the following circumstances exists:

28 (i) The court determines that testimony in chambers is necessary
29 to ensure truthful testimony.

30 (ii) The child is likely to be intimidated by a formal courtroom
31 setting.

32 (iii) The child is afraid to testify in front of his or her parent or
33 parents.

34 (B) After testimony in chambers, the parent or parents of the
35 child may elect to have the court reporter read back the testimony
36 or have the testimony summarized by counsel for the parent or
37 parents.

38 (C) The testimony of a child also may be taken in chambers and
39 outside the presence of the guardian or guardians of a child under
40 the circumstances specified in this subdivision.

(i) (1) Any order of the court permanently terminating parental rights under this section shall be conclusive and binding upon the child, upon the parent or ~~parents~~ *parents*, and upon all other persons who have been served with citation by publication or otherwise as provided in this chapter. After making the order, the juvenile court shall have no power to set aside, change, or modify it, except as provided in paragraph (2), but nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the right to appeal the order.

(2) A tribal customary adoption order evidencing that the Indian child has been the subject of a tribal customary adoption shall be afforded full faith and credit and shall have the same force and effect as an order of adoption authorized by this section. The rights and obligations of the parties as to the matters determined by the Indian child's tribe shall be binding on all parties. A court shall not order compliance with the order absent a finding that the party seeking the enforcement participated, or attempted to participate, in good faith, in family mediation services of the court or dispute resolution through the tribe regarding the conflict, prior to the filing of the enforcement action.

(3) A child who has not been adopted after the passage of at least three years from the date the court terminated parental rights and for whom the court has determined that adoption is no longer the permanent plan may petition the juvenile court to reinstate parental rights pursuant to the procedure prescribed by Section 388. The child may file the petition prior to the expiration of this three-year period if the State Department of Social Services, county adoption agency, or licensed adoption agency that is responsible for custody and supervision of the child as described in subdivision (j) and the child stipulate that the child is no longer likely to be adopted. A child over 12 years of age shall sign the petition in the absence of a showing of good cause as to why the child could not do so. If it appears that the best interests of the child may be promoted by reinstatement of parental rights, the court shall order that a hearing be held and shall give prior notice, or cause prior notice to be given, to the social worker or probation officer and to the child's attorney of record, or, if there is no attorney of record for the child, to the child, and the child's tribe, if applicable, by means prescribed by subdivision (c) of Section 297. The court shall order the child or the social worker or probation officer to give prior notice of the hearing to the child's former parent or

1 parents whose parental rights were terminated in the manner
2 prescribed by subdivision (f) of Section 294 where the
3 recommendation is adoption. The juvenile court shall grant the
4 petition if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that the child
5 is no longer likely to be adopted and that reinstatement of parental
6 rights is in the child's best interest. If the court reinstates parental
7 rights over a child who is under 12 years of age and for whom the
8 new permanent plan will not be reunification with a parent or legal
9 guardian, the court shall specify the factual basis for its findings
10 that it is in the best interest of the child to reinstate parental rights.

11 This subdivision is intended to be retroactive and applies to any
12 child who is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court at the time
13 of the hearing regardless of the date parental rights were terminated.

14 (j) If the court, by order or judgment, declares the child free
15 from the custody and control of both parents, or one parent if the
16 other does not have custody and control, or declares the child
17 eligible for tribal customary adoption, the court shall at the same
18 time order the child referred to the State Department of Social
19 Services, county adoption agency, or licensed adoption agency for
20 adoptive placement by the agency. However, except in the case
21 of a tribal customary adoption where there is no termination of
22 parental rights, a petition for adoption may not be granted until
23 the appellate rights of the natural parents have been exhausted.
24 The State Department of Social Services, county adoption agency,
25 or licensed adoption agency shall be responsible for the custody
26 and supervision of the child and shall be entitled to the exclusive
27 care and control of the child at all times until a petition for adoption
28 or tribal customary adoption is granted, except as specified in
29 subdivision (n). With the consent of the agency, the court may
30 appoint a guardian of the child, who shall serve until the child is
31 adopted.

32 (k) Notwithstanding any other law, the application of any person
33 who, as a relative caretaker or foster parent, has cared for a
34 dependent child for whom the court has approved a permanent
35 plan for adoption, or who has been freed for adoption, shall be
36 given preference with respect to that child over all other
37 applications for adoptive placement if the agency making the
38 placement determines that the child has substantial emotional ties
39 to the relative caretaker or foster parent and removal from the

1 relative caretaker or foster parent would be seriously detrimental
2 to the child's emotional well-being.

3 As used in this subdivision, "preference" means that the
4 application shall be processed and, if satisfactory, the family study
5 shall be completed before the processing of the application of any
6 other person for the adoptive placement of the child.

7 (l) (1) An order by the court that a hearing pursuant to this
8 section be held is not appealable at any time unless all of the
9 following apply:

10 (A) A petition for extraordinary writ review was filed in a timely
11 manner.

12 (B) The petition substantively addressed the specific issues to
13 be challenged and supported that challenge by an adequate record.

14 (C) The petition for extraordinary writ review was summarily
15 denied or otherwise not decided on the merits.

16 (2) Failure to file a petition for extraordinary writ review within
17 the period specified by rule, to substantively address the specific
18 issues challenged, or to support that challenge by an adequate
19 record shall preclude subsequent review by appeal of the findings
20 and orders made pursuant to this section.

21 (3) The Judicial Council shall adopt rules of court, effective
22 January 1, 1995, to ensure all of the following:

23 (A) A trial court, after issuance of an order directing a hearing
24 pursuant to this section be held, shall advise all parties of the
25 requirement of filing a petition for extraordinary writ review as
26 set forth in this subdivision in order to preserve any right to appeal
27 in these issues. This notice shall be made orally to a party if the
28 party is present at the time of the making of the order or by
29 first-class mail by the clerk of the court to the last known address
30 of a party not present at the time of the making of the order.

31 (B) The prompt transmittal of the records from the trial court
32 to the appellate court.

33 (C) That adequate time requirements for counsel and court
34 personnel exist to implement the objective of this subdivision.

35 (D) That the parent or guardian, or their trial counsel or other
36 counsel, is charged with the responsibility of filing a petition for
37 extraordinary writ relief pursuant to this subdivision.

38 (4) The intent of this subdivision is to do both of the following:

39 (A) Make every reasonable attempt to achieve a substantive and
40 meritorious review by the appellate court within the time specified

1 in Sections 366.21, 366.22, and 366.25 for holding a hearing
2 pursuant to this section.

3 (B) Encourage the appellate court to determine all writ petitions
4 filed pursuant to this subdivision on their merits.

5 (5) This subdivision shall only apply to cases in which an order
6 to set a hearing pursuant to this section is issued on or after January
7 1, 1995.

8 (m) Except for subdivision (j), this section shall also apply to
9 minors adjudged wards pursuant to Section 727.31.

10 (n) (1) Notwithstanding Section 8704 of the Family Code or
11 any other law, the court, at a hearing held pursuant to this section
12 or anytime thereafter, may designate a current caretaker as a
13 prospective adoptive parent if the child has lived with the caretaker
14 for at least six months, the caretaker currently expresses a
15 commitment to adopt the child, and the caretaker has taken at least
16 one step to facilitate the adoption process. In determining whether
17 to make that designation, the court may take into consideration
18 whether the caretaker is listed in the preliminary assessment
19 prepared by the county department in accordance with subdivision
20 (i) of Section 366.21 as an appropriate person to be considered as
21 an adoptive parent for the child and the recommendation of the
22 State Department of Social Services, county adoption agency, or
23 licensed adoption agency.

24 (2) For purposes of this subdivision, steps to facilitate the
25 adoption process include, but are not limited to, the following:

26 (A) Applying for an adoption home study.

27 (B) Cooperating with an adoption home study.

28 (C) Being designated by the court or the adoption agency as the
29 adoptive family.

30 (D) Requesting de facto parent status.

31 (E) Signing an adoptive placement agreement.

32 (F) Engaging in discussions regarding a postadoption contact
33 agreement.

34 (G) Working to overcome any impediments that have been
35 identified by the State Department of Social Services, county
36 adoption agency, or licensed adoption agency.

37 (H) Attending classes required of prospective adoptive parents.

38 (3) Prior to a change in placement and as soon as possible after
39 a decision is made to remove a child from the home of a designated
40 prospective adoptive parent, the agency shall notify the court, the

1 designated prospective adoptive parent or the current caretaker, if
2 that caretaker would have met the threshold criteria to be
3 designated as a prospective adoptive parent pursuant to paragraph
4 (1) on the date of service of this notice, the child's attorney, and
5 the child, if the child is 10 years of age or older, of the proposal
6 in the manner described in Section 16010.6.

7 (A) Within five court days or seven calendar days, whichever
8 is longer, of the date of notification, the child, the child's attorney,
9 or the designated prospective adoptive parent may file a petition
10 with the court objecting to the proposal to remove the child, or the
11 court, upon its own motion, may set a hearing regarding the
12 proposal. The court may, for good cause, extend the filing period.
13 A caretaker who would have met the threshold criteria to be
14 designated as a prospective adoptive parent pursuant to paragraph
15 (1) on the date of service of the notice of proposed removal of the
16 child may file, together with the petition under this subparagraph,
17 a petition for an order designating the caretaker as a prospective
18 adoptive parent for purposes of this subdivision.

19 (B) A hearing ordered pursuant to this paragraph shall be held
20 as soon as possible and not later than five court days after the
21 petition is filed with the court or the court sets a hearing upon its
22 own motion, unless the court for good cause is unable to set the
23 matter for hearing five court days after the petition is filed, in
24 which case the court shall set the matter for hearing as soon as
25 possible. At the hearing, the court shall determine whether the
26 caretaker has met the threshold criteria to be designated as a
27 prospective adoptive parent pursuant to paragraph (1), and whether
28 the proposed removal of the child from the home of the designated
29 prospective adoptive parent is in the child's best interest, and the
30 child may not be removed from the home of the designated
31 prospective adoptive parent unless the court finds that removal is
32 in the child's best interest. If the court determines that the caretaker
33 did not meet the threshold criteria to be designated as a prospective
34 adoptive parent on the date of service of the notice of proposed
35 removal of the child, the petition objecting to the proposed removal
36 filed by the caretaker shall be dismissed. If the caretaker was
37 designated as a prospective adoptive parent prior to this hearing,
38 the court shall inquire into any progress made by the caretaker
39 towards the adoption of the child since the caretaker was designated
40 as a prospective adoptive parent.

1 (C) A determination by the court that the caretaker is a
2 designated prospective adoptive parent pursuant to paragraph (1)
3 or subparagraph (B) does not make the caretaker a party to the
4 dependency proceeding nor does it confer on the caretaker any
5 standing to object to any other action of the department, county
6 adoption agency, or licensed adoption agency, unless the caretaker
7 has been declared a de facto parent by the court prior to the notice
8 of removal served pursuant to paragraph (3).

9 (D) If a petition objecting to the proposal to remove the child
10 is not filed, and the court, upon its own motion, does not set a
11 hearing, the child may be removed from the home of the designated
12 prospective adoptive parent without a hearing.

13 (4) Notwithstanding paragraph (3), if the State Department of
14 Social Services, county adoption agency, or licensed adoption
15 agency determines that the child must be removed from the home
16 of the caretaker who is or may be a designated prospective adoptive
17 parent immediately, due to a risk of physical or emotional harm,
18 the agency may remove the child from that home and is not
19 required to provide notice prior to the removal. However, as soon
20 as possible and not longer than two court days after the removal,
21 the agency shall notify the court, the caretaker who is or may be
22 a designated prospective adoptive parent, the child's attorney, and
23 the child, if the child is 10 years of age or older, of the removal.
24 Within five court days or seven calendar days, whichever is longer,
25 of the date of notification of the removal, the child, the child's
26 attorney, or the caretaker who is or may be a designated prospective
27 adoptive parent may petition for, or the court on its own motion
28 may set, a noticed hearing pursuant to paragraph (3). The court
29 may, for good cause, extend the filing period.

30 (5) Except as provided in subdivision (b) of Section 366.28, an
31 order by the court issued after a hearing pursuant to this subdivision
32 shall not be appealable.

33 (6) Nothing in this section shall preclude a county child
34 protective services agency from fully investigating and responding
35 to alleged abuse or neglect of a child pursuant to Section 11165.5
36 of the Penal Code.

37 (7) The Judicial Council shall prepare forms to facilitate the
38 filing of the petitions described in this subdivision, which shall
39 become effective on January 1, 2006.

1 SEC. 8. Section 366.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
2 amended to read:

3 366.3. (a) If a juvenile court orders a permanent plan of
4 adoption, tribal customary adoption, adoption of a nonminor
5 dependent pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 366.31, or legal
6 guardianship pursuant to Section 360 or 366.26, the court shall
7 retain jurisdiction over the child or nonminor dependent until the
8 child or nonminor dependent is adopted or the legal guardianship
9 is established, except as provided for in Section 366.29 or, on and
10 after January 1, 2012, Section 366.32. The status of the child or
11 nonminor dependent shall be reviewed every six months to ensure
12 that the adoption or legal guardianship is completed as
13 expeditiously as possible. When the adoption of the child or
14 nonminor dependent has been granted, or in the case of a tribal
15 customary adoption, when the tribal customary adoption order has
16 been afforded full faith and credit and the petition for adoption
17 has been granted, the court shall terminate its jurisdiction over the
18 child or nonminor dependent. Following establishment of a legal
19 guardianship, the court may continue jurisdiction over the child
20 as a dependent child of the juvenile court or may terminate its
21 dependency jurisdiction and retain jurisdiction over the child as a
22 ward of the legal guardianship, as authorized by Section 366.4. If,
23 however, a relative of the child is appointed the legal guardian of
24 the child and the child has been placed with the relative for at least
25 six months, the court shall, except if the relative guardian objects,
26 or upon a finding of exceptional circumstances, terminate its
27 dependency jurisdiction and retain jurisdiction over the child as a
28 ward of the guardianship, as authorized by Section 366.4.
29 Following a termination of parental rights, the parent or parents
30 shall not be a party to, or receive notice of, any subsequent
31 proceedings regarding the child.

32 (b) (1) If the court has dismissed dependency jurisdiction
33 following the establishment of a legal guardianship, or no
34 dependency jurisdiction attached because of the granting of a legal
35 guardianship pursuant to Section 360, and the legal guardianship
36 is subsequently revoked or otherwise terminated, the county
37 department of social services or welfare department shall notify
38 the juvenile court of this fact. The court may vacate its previous
39 order dismissing dependency jurisdiction over the child.

1 (2) Notwithstanding Section 1601 of the Probate Code, the
2 proceedings to terminate a legal guardianship that has been granted
3 pursuant to Section 360 or 366.26 shall be held either in the
4 juvenile court that retains jurisdiction over the guardianship as
5 authorized by Section 366.4 or the juvenile court in the county
6 where the guardian and child currently reside, based on the best
7 interests of the child, unless the termination is due to the
8 emancipation or adoption of the child. The juvenile court having
9 jurisdiction over the guardianship shall receive notice from the
10 court in which the petition is filed within five calendar days of the
11 filing. Prior to the hearing on a petition to terminate legal
12 guardianship pursuant to this subdivision, the court shall order the
13 county department of social services or welfare department having
14 jurisdiction or jointly with the county department where the
15 guardian and child currently reside to prepare a report, for the
16 court's consideration, that shall include an evaluation of whether
17 the child could safely remain in, or be returned to, the legal
18 guardian's home, without terminating the legal guardianship, if
19 services were provided to the child or legal guardian. If applicable,
20 the report shall also identify recommended family maintenance or
21 reunification services to maintain the legal guardianship and set
22 forth a plan for providing those services. If the petition to terminate
23 legal guardianship is granted, either juvenile court may resume
24 dependency jurisdiction over the child, and may order the county
25 department of social services or welfare department to develop a
26 new permanent plan, which shall be presented to the court within
27 60 days of the termination. If no dependency jurisdiction has
28 attached, the social worker shall make any investigation he or she
29 deems necessary to determine whether the child may be within the
30 jurisdiction of the juvenile court, as provided in Section 328.

31 (3) Unless the parental rights of the child's parent or parents
32 have been terminated, they shall be notified that the legal
33 guardianship has been revoked or terminated and shall be entitled
34 to participate in the new permanency planning hearing. The court
35 shall try to place the child in another permanent placement. At the
36 hearing, the parents may be considered as custodians but the child
37 shall not be returned to the parent or parents unless they prove, by
38 a preponderance of the evidence, that reunification is the best
39 alternative for the child. The court may, if it is in the best interests

1 of the child, order that reunification services again be provided to
2 the parent or parents.

3 (c) If, following the establishment of a legal guardianship, the
4 county welfare department becomes aware of changed
5 circumstances that indicate adoption or, for an Indian child, tribal
6 customary adoption, may be an appropriate plan for the child, the
7 department shall so notify the court. The court may vacate its
8 previous order dismissing dependency jurisdiction over the child
9 and order that a hearing be held pursuant to Section 366.26 to
10 determine whether adoption or continued legal guardianship is the
11 most appropriate plan for the child. The hearing shall be held no
12 later than 120 days from the date of the order. If the court orders
13 that a hearing shall be held pursuant to Section 366.26, the court
14 shall direct the agency supervising the child and the county
15 adoption agency, or the State Department of Social Services if it
16 is acting as an adoption agency, to prepare an assessment under
17 subdivision (b) of Section 366.22.

18 (d) If the child or, on and after January 1, 2012, nonminor
19 dependent is in a placement other than the home of a legal guardian
20 and jurisdiction has not been dismissed, the status of the child shall
21 be reviewed at least every six months. The review of the status of
22 a child for whom the court has ordered parental rights terminated
23 and who has been ordered placed for adoption shall be conducted
24 by the court. The review of the status of a child or, on and after
25 January 1, 2012, nonminor dependent for whom the court has not
26 ordered parental rights terminated and who has not been ordered
27 placed for adoption may be conducted by the court or an
28 appropriate local agency. The court shall conduct the review under
29 the following circumstances:

30 (1) Upon the request of the child's parents or legal guardians.

31 (2) Upon the request of the child or, on and after January 1,
32 2012, nonminor dependent.

33 (3) It has been 12 months since a hearing held pursuant to
34 Section 366.26 or an order that the child remain in foster care
35 pursuant to Section 366.21, 366.22, 366.25, 366.26, or subdivision
36 (h).

37 (4) It has been 12 months since a review was conducted by the
38 court.

39 The court shall determine whether or not reasonable ~~efforts~~
40 *efforts, including the provision of child-centered specialized*

1 *permanency services, as defined in Section 11400, to make and*
2 *finalize a permanent placement for the child have been made.*

3 (e) Except as provided in subdivision (g), at the review held
4 every six months pursuant to subdivision (d), the reviewing body
5 shall inquire about the progress being made to provide a permanent
6 home for the child, shall consider the safety of the child, and shall
7 determine all of the following:

8 (1) The continuing necessity for, and appropriateness of, the
9 placement.

10 (2) *The extent to which child-centered specialized permanency*
11 *services, as described Section 11400, have been provided.*

12 ~~(2)~~

13 (3) Identification of individuals other than the child's siblings
14 who are important to a child who is 10 years of age or older and
15 has been in out-of-home placement for six months or longer, and
16 actions necessary to maintain the child's relationship with those
17 individuals, provided that those relationships are in the best interest
18 of the child. The social worker shall ask every child who is 10
19 years of age or older and who has been in out-of-home placement
20 for six months or longer to identify individuals other than the
21 child's siblings who are important to the child, and may ask any
22 other child to provide that information, as appropriate. The social
23 worker shall make efforts to identify other individuals who are
24 important to the child, consistent with the child's best interests.

25 ~~(3)~~

26 (4) The continuing appropriateness and extent of compliance
27 with the permanent plan for the child, including efforts to maintain
28 relationships between a child who is 10 years of age or older and
29 who has been in out-of-home placement for six months or longer
30 and individuals who are important to the child and efforts to
31 identify a prospective adoptive parent or legal guardian, including,
32 but not limited to, child-specific recruitment efforts and listing on
33 an adoption exchange.

34 ~~(4)~~

35 (5) The extent of the agency's compliance with the child welfare
36 services case plan in making reasonable efforts either to return the
37 child to the safe home of the parent or to complete whatever steps
38 are necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the ~~child.~~
39 *child, including the provision of child-centered specialized*
40 *permanency services, as defined in Section 11400.* If the reviewing

body determines that a second period of reunification services is in the child's best interests, and that there is a significant likelihood of the child's return to a safe home due to changed circumstances of the parent, pursuant to subdivision (f), the specific reunification services required to effect the child's return to a safe home shall be described.

~~(5)~~

(6) Whether there should be any limitation on the right of the parent or guardian to make educational decisions or developmental services decisions for the child. That limitation shall be specifically addressed in the court order and may not exceed what is necessary to protect the child. If the court specifically limits the right of the parent or guardian to make educational decisions or developmental services decisions for the child, the court shall at the same time appoint a responsible adult to make educational decisions or developmental services decisions for the child pursuant to Section 361.

~~(6)~~

(7) The adequacy of services provided to the child. The court shall consider the progress in providing the information and documents to the child, as described in Section 391. The court shall also consider the need for, and progress in providing, the assistance and services described in Section 391.

~~(7)~~

(8) The extent of progress the parents or legal guardians have made toward alleviating or mitigating the causes necessitating placement in foster care.

~~(8)~~

(9) The likely date by which the child may be returned to, and safely maintained in, the home, placed for adoption, legal guardianship, placed with a fit and willing relative, or, for an Indian child, in consultation with the child's tribe, placed for tribal customary adoption, or, if the child is 16 years of age or older, and no other permanent plan is appropriate at the time of the hearing, in another planned permanent living ~~arrangement~~. *arrangement with the provision of child-centered specialized permanency services, as defined in Section 11400.*

~~(9)~~

(10) Whether the child has any siblings under the court's jurisdiction, and, if any siblings exist, all of the following:

1 (A) The nature of the relationship between the child and his or
2 her siblings.

3 (B) The appropriateness of developing or maintaining the sibling
4 relationships pursuant to Section 16002.

5 (C) If the siblings are not placed together in the same home,
6 why the siblings are not placed together and what efforts are being
7 made to place the siblings together, or why those efforts are not
8 appropriate.

9 (D) If the siblings are not placed together, all of the following:

10 (i) The frequency and nature of the visits between the siblings.

11 (ii) If there are visits between the siblings, whether the visits
12 are supervised or unsupervised. If the visits are supervised, a
13 discussion of the reasons why the visits are supervised, and what
14 needs to be accomplished in order for the visits to be unsupervised.

15 (iii) If there are visits between the siblings, a description of the
16 location and length of the visits.

17 (iv) Any plan to increase visitation between the siblings.

18 (E) The impact of the sibling relationships on the child's
19 placement and planning for legal permanence.

20 The factors the court may consider as indicators of the nature of
21 the child's sibling relationships include, but are not limited to,
22 whether the siblings were raised together in the same home,
23 whether the siblings have shared significant common experiences
24 or have existing close and strong bonds, whether either sibling
25 expresses a desire to visit or live with his or her sibling, as
26 applicable, and whether ongoing contact is in the child's best
27 emotional interests.

28 ~~(10)~~

29 *(11)* For a child who is 14 years of age or older, and, effective
30 January 1, 2012, for a nonminor dependent, the services needed
31 to assist the child or nonminor dependent to make the transition
32 from foster care to successful adulthood.

33 The reviewing body shall determine whether or not reasonable
34 ~~efforts~~ *efforts, including the provision of child-centered specialized*
35 *permanency services, as defined in Section 11400*, to make and
36 finalize a permanent placement for the child have been made.

37 Each licensed foster family agency shall submit reports for each
38 child in its care, custody, and control to the court concerning the
39 continuing appropriateness and extent of compliance with the

1 child's permanent plan, the extent of compliance with the case
2 plan, and the type and adequacy of services provided to the child.

3 (f) Unless their parental rights have been permanently
4 terminated, the parent or parents of the child are entitled to receive
5 notice of, and participate in, those hearings. It shall be presumed
6 that continued care is in the best interests of the child, unless the
7 parent or parents prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that
8 further efforts at reunification are the best alternative for the child.
9 In those cases, the court may order that further reunification
10 services to return the child to a safe home environment be provided
11 to the parent or parents up to a period of six months, and family
12 maintenance services, as needed for an additional six months in
13 order to return the child to a safe home environment. On and after
14 January 1, 2012, this subdivision shall not apply to the parents of
15 a nonminor dependent.

16 (g) At the review conducted by the court and held at least every
17 six months, regarding a child for whom the court has ordered
18 parental rights terminated and who has been ordered placed for
19 adoption, or, for an Indian child for whom parental rights are not
20 being terminated and a tribal customary adoption is being
21 considered, the county welfare department shall prepare and present
22 to the court a report describing the following:

23 (1) The child's present placement.

24 (2) The child's current physical, mental, emotional, and
25 educational status.

26 (3) If the child has not been placed with a prospective adoptive
27 parent or guardian, identification of individuals, other than the
28 child's siblings, who are important to the child and actions
29 necessary to maintain the child's relationship with those
30 individuals, provided that those relationships are in the best interest
31 of the child. The agency shall ask every child who is 10 years of
32 age or older to identify any individuals who are important to him
33 or her, consistent with the child's best interest, and may ask any
34 child who is younger than 10 years of age to provide that
35 information as appropriate. The agency shall make efforts to
36 identify other individuals who are important to the child.

37 (4) Whether the child has been placed with a prospective
38 adoptive parent or parents.

39 (5) Whether an adoptive placement agreement has been signed
40 and filed.

1 (6) If the child has not been placed with a prospective adoptive
2 parent or parents, the efforts made to identify an appropriate
3 prospective adoptive parent or legal guardian, including, but not
4 limited to, *child-centered specialized permanency services, as*
5 *defined in Section 11400*, ~~child-specific recruitment efforts efforts,~~
6 and listing on an adoption exchange.

7 (7) Whether the final adoption order should include provisions
8 for postadoptive sibling contact pursuant to Section 366.29.

9 (8) The progress of the search for an adoptive placement if one
10 has not been identified.

11 (9) Any impediments to the adoption or the adoptive placement.

12 (10) The anticipated date by which the child will be adopted or
13 placed in an adoptive home.

14 (11) The anticipated date by which an adoptive placement
15 agreement will be signed.

16 (12) Recommendations for court orders that will assist in the
17 placement of the child for adoption or in the finalization of the
18 ~~adoption~~ *adoption, including the provision of child-centered*
19 *specialized permanency services, as defined in Section 11400.*

20 The court shall determine whether or not reasonable efforts to
21 make and finalize a permanent placement for the child have been
22 made.

23 The court shall make appropriate orders to protect the stability
24 of the child and to facilitate and expedite the permanent placement
25 and adoption of the child.

26 (h) (1) At the review held pursuant to subdivision (d) for a child
27 in foster care, the court shall consider all permanency planning
28 options for the child including whether the child should be returned
29 to the home of the parent, placed for adoption, or, for an Indian
30 child, in consultation with the child's tribe, placed for tribal
31 customary adoption, or appointed a legal guardian, placed with a
32 fit and willing relative, or, if compelling reasons exist for finding
33 that none of the foregoing options are in the best interest of the
34 child and the child is 16 years of age or older, whether the child
35 should be placed in another planned permanent living ~~arrangement~~.
36 *arrangement with the provision of child-centered specialized*
37 *permanency services, as defined in Section 11400.* The court shall
38 order that a hearing be held pursuant to Section 366.26, unless it
39 determines by clear and convincing evidence that there is a
40 compelling reason for determining that a hearing held pursuant to

1 Section 366.26 is not in the best interest of the child because the
2 child is being returned to the home of the parent, the child is not
3 *currently* a proper subject for adoption, or no one is willing to
4 accept legal guardianship as of the hearing date. If the county
5 adoption agency, or the department when it is acting as an adoption
6 agency, has determined it is unlikely that the child will be adopted
7 or one of the conditions described in paragraph (1) of subdivision
8 (c) of Section 366.26 applies, that fact shall constitute a compelling
9 reason for purposes of this subdivision. Only upon that
10 determination may the court order that the child remain in foster
11 care, without holding a hearing pursuant to Section 366.26. The
12 court shall make factual findings identifying any barriers to
13 achieving the permanent plan as of the hearing date. On and after
14 January 1, 2012, the nonminor dependent's legal status as an adult
15 is in and of itself a compelling reason not to hold a hearing pursuant
16 to Section 366.26.

17 (2) When the child is 16 years of age or older and in another
18 planned permanent living arrangement, the court shall do all of
19 the following:

20 (A) Ask the child about his or her desired permanency outcome.

21 (B) Make a judicial determination explaining why, as of the
22 hearing date, another planned permanent living arrangement is the
23 best permanency plan for the child.

24 (C) State for the record the compelling reason or reasons why
25 it continues not to be in the best interest of the child to return home,
26 be placed for adoption, be placed for tribal customary adoption in
27 the case of an Indian child, be placed with a legal guardian, or be
28 placed with a fit and willing relative.

29 (3) When the child is 16 years of age or older and is in another
30 planned permanent living arrangement, the social study prepared
31 for the hearing shall include a description of all of the following:

32 (A) The intensive and ongoing ~~efforts~~ *efforts, including the*
33 *provision of child-centered specialized permanency services, as*
34 *defined in Section 11400*, to return the child to the home of the
35 parent, place the child for adoption, or establish a legal
36 guardianship, as appropriate.

37 (B) The steps taken to do both of the following:

38 (i) Ensure that the child's care provider is following the
39 reasonable and prudent parent standard.

1 (ii) Determine whether the child has regular, ongoing
2 opportunities to engage in age or developmentally appropriate
3 activities, including consulting with the child about opportunities
4 for the child to participate in those activities.

5 (4) When the child is under 16 years of age and has a permanent
6 plan of return home, adoption, legal guardianship, or placement
7 with a fit and willing relative, any barriers to achieving the
8 permanent plan and the efforts made by the agency address those
9 ~~barriers~~. *barriers, including the provision of child-centered*
10 *specialized permanency services, as defined in Section 11400.*

11 (i) If, as authorized by subdivision (h), the court orders a hearing
12 pursuant to Section 366.26, the court shall direct the agency
13 supervising the child and the county adoption agency, or the State
14 Department of Social Services when it is acting as an adoption
15 agency, to prepare an assessment as provided for in subdivision
16 (i) of Section 366.21 or subdivision (b) of Section 366.22. A
17 hearing held pursuant to Section 366.26 shall be held no later than
18 120 days from the date of the 12-month review at which it is
19 ordered, and at that hearing the court shall determine whether
20 adoption, tribal customary adoption, legal guardianship, placement
21 with a fit and willing relative, or, for a child 16 years of age or
22 older, another planned permanent living arrangement is the most
23 appropriate plan for the child. On and after January 1, 2012, a
24 hearing pursuant to Section 366.26 shall not be ordered if the child
25 is a nonminor dependent, unless the nonminor dependent is an
26 Indian child and tribal customary adoption is recommended as the
27 permanent plan. The court may order that a nonminor dependent
28 who otherwise is eligible pursuant to Section 11403 remain in a
29 planned, permanent living arrangement. At the request of the
30 nonminor dependent who has an established relationship with an
31 adult determined to be the nonminor dependent's permanent
32 connection, the court may order adoption of the nonminor
33 dependent pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 366.31.

34 (j) The reviews conducted pursuant to subdivision (a) or (d)
35 may be conducted earlier than every six months if the court
36 determines that an earlier review is in the best interests of the child
37 or as court rules prescribe.

38 SEC. 9. Section 371 is added to the Welfare and Institutions
39 Code, to read:

1 371. When the court has ordered a dependent child or a ward
2 of the juvenile court placed for adoption or has appointed a relative
3 or nonrelative legal guardian, the social worker or probation officer
4 shall provide the prospective adoptive family or the guardian or
5 guardians information, in writing, regarding the importance of
6 working with mental health providers that have specialized
7 adoption or permanency clinical training and experience if the
8 family needs clinical support, and a description of the desirable
9 clinical expertise the family should look for when choosing an
10 adoption- or permanency-competent mental health professional.

11 SEC. 10. Section 706.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
12 is amended to read:

13 706.5. (a) If placement in foster care is recommended by the
14 probation officer, or where the minor is already in foster care
15 placement or pending placement pursuant to an earlier order, the
16 social study prepared by the probation officer that is received into
17 evidence at disposition pursuant to Section 706 shall include a
18 case plan, as described in Section 706.6. If the court elects to hold
19 the first status review at the disposition hearing, the social study
20 shall also include, but not be limited to, the factual material
21 described in subdivision (c).

22 (b) If placement in foster care is not recommended by the
23 probation officer prior to disposition, but the court orders foster
24 care placement, the court shall order the probation officer to prepare
25 a case plan, as described in Section 706.6, within 30 days of the
26 placement order. The case plan shall be filed with the court.

27 (c) At each status review hearing, the social study shall include,
28 but not be limited to, an updated case plan as described in Section
29 706.6 and the following information:

30 (1) The continuing necessity for and appropriateness of the
31 placement.

32 (2) The extent of the probation department's compliance with
33 the case plan in making reasonable efforts to safely return the
34 minor to the minor's home or to complete whatever steps are
35 necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the minor.

36 (3) The extent of progress that has been made by the minor and
37 parent or guardian toward alleviating or mitigating the causes
38 necessitating placement in foster care.

39 (4) If the first permanency planning hearing has not yet occurred,
40 the social study shall include the likely date by which the minor

1 may be returned to and safely maintained in the home or placed
2 for adoption, appointed a legal guardian, permanently placed with
3 a fit and willing relative, or referred to another planned permanent
4 living arrangement.

5 (5) Whether the minor has been or will be referred to educational
6 services and what services the minor is receiving, including special
7 education and related services if the minor has exceptional needs
8 as described in Part 30 (commencing with Section 56000) of
9 Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code or accommodations
10 if the child has disabilities as described in Chapter 16 (commencing
11 with Section 701) of Title 29 of the United States Code Annotated.
12 The probation officer or child advocate shall solicit comments
13 from the appropriate local education agency prior to completion
14 of the social study.

15 (6) If the parent or guardian is unwilling or unable to participate
16 in making an educational or developmental services decision for
17 his or her child, or if other circumstances exist that compromise
18 the ability of the parent or guardian to make educational or
19 developmental services decisions for the child, the probation
20 department shall consider whether the right of the parent or
21 guardian to make educational or developmental services decisions
22 for the minor should be limited. If the study makes that
23 recommendation, it shall identify whether there is a responsible
24 adult available to make educational or developmental services
25 decisions for the minor pursuant to Section 726.

26 (7) When the minor is 16 years of age or older and in another
27 planned permanent living arrangement, the social study shall
28 include a description of all of the following:

29 (A) The intensive and ongoing—~~efforts~~ *efforts, including*
30 *child-centered specialized permanency services, as defined in*
31 *Section 11400*, to return the minor to the home of the parent, place
32 the minor for adoption, or establish a legal guardianship, as
33 appropriate.

34 (B) The steps taken to do both of the following:

35 (i) Ensure that the minor's care provider is following the
36 reasonable and prudent parent standard.

37 (ii) Determine whether the minor has regular, ongoing
38 opportunities to engage in age or developmentally appropriate
39 activities, including consulting with the minor about opportunities
40 for the minor to participate in the activities.

(8) When the minor is under 16 years of age and has a permanent plan of return home, adoption, legal guardianship, or placement with a fit and willing relative, the social study shall include a description of any barriers to achieving the permanent plan and the efforts made by the agency to address those barriers.

(d) At each permanency planning hearing, the social study shall include, but not be limited to, an updated case plan as described in Section 706.6, the factual material described in subdivision (c) of this section, and a recommended permanent plan for the minor.

SEC. 11. Section 706.6 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

706.6. (a) Services to minors are best provided in a framework that integrates service planning and delivery among multiple service systems, including the mental health system, using a team-based approach, such as a child and family team. A child and family team brings together individuals that engage with the child or youth and family in assessing, planning, and delivering services. Use of a team approach increases efficiency, and thus reduces cost, by increasing coordination of formal services and integrating the natural and informal supports available to the child or youth and family.

(b) (1) For the purposes of this section, “child and family team” has the same meaning as in paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 16501.

(2) In its development of the case plan, the probation agency shall consider any recommendations of the child and family team, as defined in paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 16501. The agency shall document the rationale for any inconsistencies between the case plan and the child and family team recommendations.

(c) A case plan prepared as required by Section 706.5 shall be submitted to the court. It shall either be attached to the social study or incorporated as a separate section within the social study. The case plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

(1) A description of the circumstances that resulted in the minor being placed under the supervision of the probation department and in foster care.

(2) Documentation of the preplacement assessment of the minor’s and family’s strengths and service needs showing that

1 preventive services have been provided, and that reasonable efforts
2 to prevent out-of-home placement have been made. The assessment
3 shall include the type of placement best equipped to meet those
4 needs.

5 (3) (A) A description of the type of home or institution in which
6 the minor is to be placed, and the reasons for that placement
7 decision, including a discussion of the safety and appropriateness
8 of the placement, including the recommendations of the child and
9 family team, if available.

10 (B) An appropriate placement is a placement in the least
11 restrictive, most family-like environment that promotes normal
12 childhood experiences, in closest proximity to the minor's home,
13 that meets the minor's best interests and special needs.

14 (d) The following shall apply:

15 (1) The agency selecting a placement shall consider, in order
16 of priority:

17 (A) Placement with relatives, nonrelated extended family
18 members, and tribal members.

19 (B) Foster family homes and certified homes or resource families
20 of foster family agencies.

21 (C) Treatment and intensive treatment certified homes or
22 resource families of foster family agencies, or multidimensional
23 treatment foster homes or therapeutic foster care homes.

24 (D) Group care placements in the following order:

25 (i) Short-term residential treatment centers.

26 (ii) Group homes.

27 (iii) Community treatment facilities.

28 (iv) Out-of-state residential treatment pursuant to Part 5
29 (commencing with Section 7900) of Division 12 of the Family
30 Code.

31 (2) Although the placement options shall be considered in the
32 preferential order specified in paragraph (1), the placement of a
33 child may be with any of these placement settings in order to ensure
34 the selection of a safe placement setting that is in the child's best
35 interests and meets the child's special needs.

36 (3) A minor may be placed into a community care facility
37 licensed as a short-term residential treatment center, as defined in
38 subdivision (ad) of Section 11400, provided the case plan indicates
39 that the placement is for the purposes of providing short-term,
40 specialized, and intensive treatment for the minor, the case plan

1 specifies the need for, nature of, and anticipated duration of this
2 treatment, and the case plan includes transitioning the minor to a
3 less restrictive environment and the projected timeline by which
4 the minor will be transitioned to a less restrictive environment.

5 (e) Effective January 1, 2010, a case plan shall ensure the
6 educational stability of the child while in foster care and shall
7 include both of the following:

8 (1) Assurances that the placement takes into account the
9 appropriateness of the current educational setting and the proximity
10 to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement.

11 (2) An assurance that the placement agency has coordinated
12 with appropriate local educational agencies to ensure that the child
13 remains in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of
14 placement, or, if remaining in that school is not in the best interests
15 of the child, assurances by the placement agency and the local
16 educational agency to provide immediate and appropriate
17 enrollment in a new school and to provide all of the child's
18 educational records to the new school.

19 (f) Specific time-limited goals and related activities designed
20 to enable the safe return of the minor to his or her home, or in the
21 event that return to his or her home is not possible, activities
22 designed to result in permanent placement or emancipation.
23 Specific responsibility for carrying out the planned activities shall
24 be assigned to one or more of the following:

25 (1) The probation department.

26 (2) The minor's parent or parents or legal guardian or guardians,
27 as applicable.

28 (3) The minor.

29 (4) The foster parents or licensed agency providing foster care.

30 (g) The projected date of completion of the case plan objectives
31 and the date services will be terminated.

32 (h) (1) Scheduled visits between the minor and his or her family
33 and an explanation if no visits are made.

34 (2) Whether the child has other siblings, and, if any siblings
35 exist, all of the following:

36 (A) The nature of the relationship between the child and his or
37 her siblings.

38 (B) The appropriateness of developing or maintaining the sibling
39 relationships pursuant to Section 16002.

1 (C) If the siblings are not placed together in the same home,
2 why the siblings are not placed together and what efforts are being
3 made to place the siblings together, or why those efforts are not
4 appropriate.

5 (D) If the siblings are not placed together, all of the following:

6 (i) The frequency and nature of the visits between the siblings.

7 (ii) If there are visits between the siblings, whether the visits
8 are supervised or unsupervised. If the visits are supervised, a
9 discussion of the reasons why the visits are supervised, and what
10 needs to be accomplished in order for the visits to be unsupervised.

11 (iii) If there are visits between the siblings, a description of the
12 location and length of the visits.

13 (iv) Any plan to increase visitation between the siblings.

14 (E) The impact of the sibling relationships on the child's
15 placement and planning for legal permanence.

16 (F) The continuing need to suspend sibling interaction, if
17 applicable, pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 16002.

18 (3) The factors the court may consider in making a determination
19 regarding the nature of the child's sibling relationships may
20 include, but are not limited to, whether the siblings were raised
21 together in the same home, whether the siblings have shared
22 significant common experiences or have existing close and strong
23 bonds, whether either sibling expresses a desire to visit or live with
24 his or her sibling, as applicable, and whether ongoing contact is
25 in the child's best emotional interests.

26 (i) (1) When placement is made in a foster family home, group
27 home, or other child care institution that is either a substantial
28 distance from the home of the minor's parent or legal guardian or
29 out of state, the case plan shall specify the reasons why the
30 placement is the most appropriate and is in the best interest of the
31 minor.

32 (2) When an out-of-state group home placement is recommended
33 or made, the case plan shall comply with Section 727.1 of this
34 code and Section 7911.1 of the Family Code. In addition,
35 documentation of the recommendation of the multidisciplinary
36 team and the rationale for this particular placement shall be
37 included. The case plan shall also address what in-state services
38 or facilities were used or considered and why they were not
39 recommended.

1 (j) If applicable, efforts to make it possible to place siblings
2 together, unless it has been determined that placement together is
3 not in the best interest of one or more siblings.

4 (k) A schedule of visits between the minor and the probation
5 officer, including a monthly visitation schedule for those children
6 placed in group homes.

7 (l) Health and education information about the minor, school
8 records, immunizations, known medical problems, and any known
9 medications the minor may be taking, names and addresses of the
10 minor's health and educational providers; the minor's grade level
11 performance; assurances that the minor's placement in foster care
12 takes into account proximity to the school in which the minor was
13 enrolled at the time of placement; and other relevant health and
14 educational information.

15 (m) When out-of-home services are used and the goal is
16 reunification, the case plan shall describe the services that were
17 provided to prevent removal of the minor from the home, those
18 services to be provided to assist in reunification and the services
19 to be provided concurrently to achieve legal permanency if efforts
20 to reunify fail.

21 (n) (1) The updated case plan prepared for a permanency
22 planning hearing shall include a recommendation for a permanent
23 plan for the minor. The identified permanent plan for a minor under
24 16 years of age shall be return home, adoption, legal guardianship,
25 or placement with a fit and willing relative. The case plan shall
26 identify any barriers to achieving legal permanence and the steps
27 the agency will take to address those barriers.

28 (2) If, after considering reunification, adoptive placement, legal
29 guardianship, or permanent placement with a fit and willing relative
30 the probation officer recommends placement in a planned
31 permanent living arrangement for a minor 16 years of age or older,
32 the case plan shall include documentation of a compelling reason
33 or reasons why termination of parental rights is not in the minor's
34 best interest. For purposes of this subdivision, a "compelling
35 reason" shall have the same meaning as in subdivision (c) of
36 Section 727.3. The case plan shall also identify the intensive and
37 ongoing ~~efforts~~ efforts, *including the provision of child-centered*
38 *specialized permanency services, as described Section 11400*, to
39 return the minor to the home of the parent, place the minor for
40 adoption, establish a legal guardianship, or place the minor with

1 a fit and willing relative, as appropriate. Efforts shall include the
2 use of technology, including social media, to find biological family
3 members of the minor.

4 (o) Each updated case plan shall include a description of the
5 services that have been provided to the minor under the plan and
6 an evaluation of the appropriateness and effectiveness of those
7 services.

8 (p) A statement that the parent or legal guardian, and the minor
9 have had an opportunity to participate in the development of the
10 case plan, to review the case plan, to sign the case plan, and to
11 receive a copy of the plan, or an explanation about why the parent,
12 legal guardian, or minor was not able to participate or sign the case
13 plan.

14 (q) For a minor in out-of-home care who is 16 years of age or
15 older, a written description of the programs and services, which
16 will help the minor prepare for the transition from foster care to
17 successful adulthood.

18 SEC. 12. Section 727.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
19 is amended to read:

20 727.2. The purpose of this section is to provide a means to
21 monitor the safety and well-being of every minor in foster care
22 who has been declared a ward of the juvenile court pursuant to
23 Section 601 or 602 and to ensure that everything reasonably
24 possible is done to facilitate the safe and early return of the minor
25 to his or her home or to establish an alternative permanent plan
26 for the minor.

27 (a) If the court orders the care, custody, and control of the minor
28 to be under the supervision of the probation officer for placement
29 pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 727, the juvenile court shall
30 order the probation department to ensure the provision of
31 reunification services to facilitate the safe return of the minor to
32 his or her home or the permanent placement of the minor, and to
33 address the needs of the minor while in foster care, except as
34 provided in subdivision (b).

35 (b) Reunification services need not be provided to a parent or
36 legal guardian if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence
37 that one or more of the following is true:

38 (1) Reunification services were previously terminated for that
39 parent or guardian, pursuant to Section 366.21, 366.22, or 366.25,

1 or not offered, pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 361.5, in
2 reference to the same minor.

3 (2) The parent has been convicted of any of the following:

4 (A) Murder of another child of the parent.

5 (B) Voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent.

6 (C) Aiding or abetting, attempting, conspiring, or soliciting to
7 commit that murder or manslaughter described in subparagraph
8 (A) or (B).

9 (D) A felony assault that results in serious bodily injury to the
10 minor or another child of the parent.

11 (3) The parental rights of the parent with respect to a sibling
12 have been terminated involuntarily, and it is not in the best interest
13 of the minor to reunify with his or her parent or legal guardian.

14 If no reunification services are offered to the parent or guardian,
15 the permanency planning hearing, as described in Section 727.3,
16 shall occur within 30 days of the date of the hearing at which the
17 decision is made not to offer services.

18 (c) The status of every minor declared a ward and ordered to
19 be placed in foster care shall be reviewed by the court no less
20 frequently than once every six months. The six-month time periods
21 shall be calculated from the date the minor entered foster care, as
22 defined in paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 727.4. If the
23 court so elects, the court may declare the hearing at which the court
24 orders the care, custody, and control of the minor to be under the
25 supervision of the probation officer for foster care placement
26 pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 727 at the first status review
27 hearing. It shall be the duty of the probation officer to prepare a
28 written social study report including an updated case plan, pursuant
29 to subdivision (b) of Section 706.5, and submit the report to the
30 court prior to each status review hearing, pursuant to subdivision
31 (b) of Section 727.4. The social study report shall include all
32 reports the probation officer relied upon in making his or her
33 recommendations.

34 (d) Prior to any status review hearing involving a minor in the
35 physical custody of a community care facility or foster family
36 agency, the facility or agency may provide the probation officer
37 with a report containing its recommendations. Prior to any status
38 review hearing involving the physical custody of a foster parent,
39 relative caregiver, preadoptive parent, or legal guardian, that person
40 may present to the court a report containing his or her

1 recommendations. The court shall consider all reports and
2 recommendations filed pursuant to subdivision (c) and pursuant
3 to this subdivision.

4 (e) At any status review hearing prior to the first permanency
5 planning hearing, the court shall consider the safety of the minor
6 and make findings and orders which determine the following:

7 (1) The continuing necessity for and appropriateness of the
8 placement.

9 (2) The extent of the probation department's compliance with
10 the case plan in making reasonable efforts, or in the case of a child
11 16 years of age or older with another planned permanent living
12 arrangement, the ongoing and intensive ~~efforts~~ *efforts, including*
13 *provision of child-centered specialized permanency services, as*
14 *defined in Section 11400*, to safely return the minor to the minor's
15 home or to complete whatever steps are necessary to finalize the
16 permanent placement of the minor.

17 (3) Whether there should be any limitation on the right of the
18 parent or guardian to make educational decisions for the minor.
19 That limitation shall be specifically addressed in the court order
20 and may not exceed what is necessary to protect the minor. If the
21 court specifically limits the right of the parent or guardian to make
22 educational decisions for the minor, the court shall at the same
23 time appoint a responsible adult to make educational decisions for
24 the minor pursuant to Section 726.

25 (4) The extent of progress that has been made by the minor and
26 parent or guardian toward alleviating or mitigating the causes
27 necessitating placement in foster care.

28 (5) The likely date by which the minor may be returned to and
29 safely maintained in the home or placed for adoption, appointed
30 a legal guardian, permanently placed with a fit and willing relative,
31 or, if the minor is 16 years of age or older, referred to another
32 planned permanent living ~~arrangement~~ *arrangement with the*
33 *provision of child-centered specialized permanency services, as*
34 *defined in Section 11400*.

35 (6) In the case of a minor who has reached 16 years of age, the
36 court shall, in addition, determine the services needed to assist the
37 minor to make the transition from foster care to successful
38 adulthood.

1 The court shall make these determinations on a case-by-case
2 basis and reference in its written findings the probation officer's
3 report and any other evidence relied upon in reaching its decision.

4 (f) At any status review hearing prior to the first permanency
5 hearing, after considering the admissible and relevant evidence,
6 the court shall order return of the minor to the physical custody of
7 his or her parent or legal guardian unless the court finds, by a
8 preponderance of evidence, that the return of the minor to his or
9 her parent or legal guardian would create a substantial risk of
10 detriment to the safety, protection, or physical or emotional
11 well-being of the minor. The probation department shall have the
12 burden of establishing that detriment. In making its determination,
13 the court shall review and consider the social study report,
14 recommendations, and the case plan pursuant to subdivision (b)
15 of Section 706.5, the report and recommendations of any child
16 advocate appointed for the minor in the case, and any other reports
17 submitted to the court pursuant to subdivision (d), and shall
18 consider the efforts or progress, or both, demonstrated by the minor
19 and family and the extent to which the minor availed himself or
20 herself of the services provided.

21 (g) At all status review hearings subsequent to the first
22 permanency planning hearing, the court shall consider the safety
23 of the minor and make the findings and orders as described in
24 paragraphs (1) to (4), inclusive, and (6) of subdivision (e). The
25 court shall either make a finding that the previously ordered
26 permanent plan continues to be appropriate or shall order that a
27 new permanent plan be adopted pursuant to subdivision (b) of
28 Section 727.3. However, the court shall not order a permanent plan
29 of "return to the physical custody of the parent or legal guardian
30 after further reunification services are offered," as described in
31 paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 727.3.

32 (h) The status review hearings required by subdivision (c) may
33 be heard by an administrative review panel, provided that the
34 administrative panel meets all of the requirements listed in
35 subparagraph (B) of paragraph (7) of subdivision (d) of Section
36 727.4.

37 (i) (1) On and after January 1, 2012, at any status review hearing
38 at which a recommendation to terminate delinquency jurisdiction
39 is being considered, or at the status review hearing held closest to
40 the ward attaining 18 years of age, but no fewer than 90 days before

1 the ward's 18th birthday, the court shall consider whether to modify
2 its jurisdiction pursuant to Section 601 or 602 and assume transition
3 jurisdiction over the minor pursuant to Section 450. The probation
4 department shall address this issue in its report to the court and
5 make a recommendation as to whether transition jurisdiction is
6 appropriate for the minor.

7 (2) The court shall order the probation department or the minor's
8 attorney to submit an application to the child welfare services
9 department pursuant to Section 329 to declare the minor a
10 dependent of the court and modify its jurisdiction from delinquency
11 to dependency jurisdiction if it finds both of the following:

12 (A) The ward does not come within the description set forth in
13 Section 450, but jurisdiction as a ward may no longer be required.

14 (B) The ward appears to come within the description of Section
15 300 and cannot be returned home safely.

16 (3) The court shall set a hearing within 20 judicial days of the
17 date of its order issued pursuant to paragraph (2) to review the
18 decision of the child welfare services department and may either
19 affirm the decision not to file a petition pursuant to Section 300
20 or order the child welfare services department to file a petition
21 pursuant to Section 300.

22 (j) On and after January 1, 2012, if a review hearing pursuant
23 to this section is the last review hearing to be held before the minor
24 attains 18 years of age, the court shall ensure that the minor's
25 transitional independent living case plan includes a plan for the
26 minor to meet one or more of the criteria in paragraphs (1) to (5),
27 inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 11403, so that the minor
28 can become a nonminor dependent, and that the minor has been
29 informed of his or her right to decline to become a nonminor
30 dependent and to seek termination of the court's jurisdiction
31 pursuant to Section 607.2.

32 SEC. 13. Section 727.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
33 is amended to read:

34 727.3. The purpose of this section is to provide a means to
35 monitor the safety and well-being of every minor in foster care
36 who has been declared a ward of the juvenile court pursuant to
37 Section 601 or 602 and to ensure that everything reasonably
38 possible is done to facilitate the safe and early return of the minor
39 to his or her own home or to establish an alternative permanent
40 plan for the minor.

1 (a) (1) For every minor declared a ward and ordered to be
2 placed in foster care, a permanency planning hearing shall be
3 conducted within 12 months of the date the minor entered foster
4 care, as defined in paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section
5 727.4. Subsequent permanency planning hearings shall be
6 conducted periodically, but no less frequently than once every 12
7 months thereafter during the period of placement. It shall be the
8 duty of the probation officer to prepare a written social study report
9 including an updated case plan and a recommendation for a
10 permanent plan, pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 706.5, and
11 submit the report to the court prior to each permanency planning
12 hearing, pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 727.4.

13 (2) Prior to any permanency planning hearing involving a minor
14 in the physical custody of a community care facility or foster family
15 agency, the facility or agency may file with the court a report
16 containing its recommendations, in addition to the probation
17 officer's social study. Prior to any permanency planning hearing
18 involving the physical custody of a foster parent, relative caregiver,
19 preadoptive parent, or legal guardian, that person may present to
20 the court a report containing his or her recommendations. The
21 court shall consider all reports and recommendations filed pursuant
22 to this subdivision.

23 (3) If the minor has a continuing involvement with his or her
24 parents or legal guardians, the parents or legal guardians shall be
25 involved in the planning for a permanent placement. The court
26 order placing the minor in a permanent placement shall include a
27 specification of the nature and frequency of visiting arrangements
28 with the parents or legal guardians.

29 (4) At each permanency planning hearing, the court shall order
30 a permanent plan for the minor, as described in subdivision (b).
31 The court shall also make findings, as described in subdivision (e)
32 of Section 727.2. In the case of a minor who has reached 16 years
33 of age or older, the court shall, in addition, determine the services
34 needed to assist the minor to make the transition from foster care
35 to successful adulthood. The court shall make all of these
36 determinations on a case-by-case basis and make reference to the
37 probation officer's report, the case plan, or other evidence relied
38 upon in making its decisions.

1 (5) When the minor is 16 years of age or older, and is in another
2 planned permanent living arrangement, the court, at each
3 permanency planning hearing, shall do all of the following:

4 (A) Ask the minor about his or her desired permanency outcome.

5 (B) *Review documentation of intensive and ongoing efforts,*
6 *including the provision of child-centered specialized permanency*
7 *services, as defined in Section 11400, to place the child in a*
8 *permanent family.*

9 ~~(B)~~

10 (C) Make a judicial determination explaining why, as of the
11 hearing date, another planned permanent living arrangement is the
12 best permanency plan for the minor.

13 ~~(C)~~

14 (D) State for the record the compelling reason or reasons why
15 it continues not to be in the best interest of the minor to return
16 home, be placed for adoption, be placed with a legal guardian, or
17 be placed with a fit and willing relative.

18 (b) At all permanency planning hearings, the court shall
19 determine the permanent plan for the minor. The court shall order
20 one of the following permanent plans, which are, in order of
21 priority:

22 (1) Return of the minor to the physical custody of the parent or
23 legal guardian. After considering the admissible and relevant
24 evidence, the court shall order the return of the minor to the
25 physical custody of his or her parent or legal guardian unless:

26 (A) Reunification services were not offered, pursuant to
27 subdivision (b) of Section 727.2.

28 (B) The court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that
29 the return of the minor to his or her parent or legal guardian would
30 create a substantial risk of detriment to the safety, protection, or
31 physical or emotional well-being of the minor. The probation
32 department shall have the burden of establishing that detriment.
33 In making its determination, the court shall review and consider
34 the social study report and recommendations pursuant to Section
35 706.5, the report and recommendations of any child advocate
36 appointed for the minor in the case, and any other reports submitted
37 pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a), and shall consider
38 the efforts or progress, or both, demonstrated by the minor and
39 family and the extent to which the minor availed himself or herself
40 of the services provided.

(2) Order that the permanent plan for the minor will be to return the minor to the physical custody of the parent or legal guardian, order further reunification services to be provided to the minor and his or her parent or legal guardian for a period not to exceed six months and continue the case for up to six months for a subsequent permanency planning hearing, provided that the subsequent hearing shall occur within 18 months of the date the minor was originally taken from the physical custody of his or her parent or legal guardian. The court shall continue the case only if it finds that there is a substantial probability that the minor will be returned to the physical custody of his or her parent or legal guardian and safely maintained in the home within the extended period of time or that reasonable services have not been provided to the parent or guardian. For purposes of this section, in order to find that there is a substantial probability that the minor will be returned to the physical custody of his or her parent or legal guardian, the court shall be required to find that the minor and his or her parent or legal guardian have demonstrated the capacity and ability to complete the objectives of the case plan.

The court shall inform the parent or legal guardian that if the minor cannot be returned home by the next permanency planning hearing, a proceeding pursuant to Section 727.31 may be initiated.

The court shall not continue the case for further reunification services if it has been 18 months or more since the date the minor was originally taken from the physical custody of his or her parent or legal guardian.

(3) Identify adoption as the permanent plan and order that a hearing be held within 120 days, pursuant to the procedures described in Section 727.31. The court shall only set a hearing pursuant to Section 727.31 if there is clear and convincing evidence that reasonable services have been provided or offered to the parents. When the court sets a hearing pursuant to Section 727.31, it shall order that an adoption assessment report be prepared, pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 727.31.

(4) Order a legal guardianship, pursuant to procedures described in subdivisions (c) to (f), inclusive, of Section 728.

(5) Place the minor with a fit and willing relative. "Placement with a fit and willing relative" means placing the minor with an appropriate approved relative who is willing to provide a permanent and stable home for the minor, but is unable or unwilling to become

1 the legal guardian. When a minor is placed with a fit and willing
2 relative, the court may authorize the relative to provide the same
3 legal consent for the minor's medical, surgical, and dental care,
4 and education as the custodial parent of the minor.

5 (6) (A) If he or she is 16 years of age or older, place the minor
6 in another planned permanent living arrangement. For purposes
7 of this section, "planned permanent living arrangement" means
8 any permanent living arrangement described in Section 11402 that
9 is ordered by the court for a minor 16 years of age or older when
10 there is a compelling reason or reasons to determine that it is not
11 in the best interest of the minor to have any permanent plan listed
12 in paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive. These plans include, but are not
13 limited to, placement in a specific, identified foster family home,
14 program, or facility on a permanent basis, or placement in a
15 transitional housing placement facility. When the court places a
16 minor in a planned permanent living arrangement, the court shall
17 specify the goal of the placement, which may include, but shall
18 not be limited to, return home, emancipation, guardianship, or
19 permanent placement with a relative.

20 The court shall only order that the minor remain in a planned
21 permanent living arrangement if the court finds by clear and
22 convincing evidence, based upon the evidence already presented
23 to it that there is a compelling reason, as defined in subdivision
24 (c), for determining that a plan of termination of parental rights
25 and adoption is not in the best interest of the minor. *If the court*
26 *orders that the minor remain in another planned permanent living*
27 *arrangement, the court shall order the provision of child-centered*
28 *permanency services, as defined in Section 11400, and that the*
29 *appropriateness of the child's continuation in a planned permanent*
30 *living arrangement be assessed again at the next permanency*
31 *planning hearing.*

32 (B) If the minor is under 16 years of age and the court finds by
33 clear and convincing evidence, based upon the evidence already
34 presented to it, that there is a compelling reason, as defined in
35 subdivision (c), for determining that a plan of termination of
36 parental rights and adoption is not in the best interest of the minor
37 as of the hearing date, the court shall order the minor to remain in
38 a foster care placement with a permanent plan of return home,
39 adoption, legal guardianship, or placement with a fit and willing
40 relative, as appropriate. The court shall make factual findings

1 identifying any barriers to achieving the permanent plan as of the
2 hearing ~~date~~; *date and shall order the provision of child-centered*
3 *specialized permanency services unless the minor is currently*
4 *placed with a fit and willing relative.*

5 (c) A compelling reason for determining that a plan of
6 termination of parental rights and adoption is not in the best interest
7 of the minor is any of the following:

8 (1) Documentation by the probation department that adoption
9 is not *currently* in the best interest of the minor and is not *currently*
10 an appropriate permanency goal. That documentation may include,
11 but is not limited to, documentation that:

12 (A) The minor is 12 years of age or older and objects to
13 termination of parental rights.

14 (B) The minor is 17 years of age or older and specifically
15 requests that transition to independent living with the identification
16 of a caring adult to serve as a lifelong connection be established
17 as his or her permanent plan. On and after January 1, 2012, this
18 includes a minor who requests that his or her transitional
19 independent living case plan include modification of his or her
20 jurisdiction to that of dependency jurisdiction pursuant to
21 subdivision (b) of Section 607.2 or subdivision (i) of Section 727.2,
22 or to that of transition jurisdiction pursuant to Section 450, in order
23 to be eligible as a nonminor dependent for the extended benefits
24 pursuant to Section 11403.

25 (C) The parent or guardian and the minor have a significant
26 bond, but the parent or guardian is unable to care for the minor
27 because of an emotional or physical disability, and the minor's
28 caregiver has committed to raising the minor to the age of majority
29 and facilitating visitation with the disabled parent or guardian.

30 (D) The minor agrees to continued placement in a residential
31 treatment facility that provides services specifically designed to
32 address the minor's treatment needs, *including child-centered*
33 *specialized permanency services, as defined in Section 11400*, and
34 the minor's needs could not be served by a less restrictive
35 placement.

36 The probation department's recommendation that adoption is
37 not in the best interest of the minor shall be based on the present
38 family circumstances of the minor and shall not preclude a different
39 recommendation at a later date if the minor's family circumstances
40 change.

1 (2) Documentation by the probation department that no grounds
2 exist to file for termination of parental rights.

3 (3) Documentation by the probation department that the minor
4 is an unaccompanied refugee minor, or there are international legal
5 obligations or foreign policy reasons that would preclude
6 terminating parental rights.

7 (4) A finding by the court that the probation department was
8 required to make reasonable efforts to reunify the minor with the
9 family pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 727.2, and did not
10 make those efforts.

11 (5) Documentation by the probation department that the minor
12 is living with a relative who is unable or unwilling to adopt the
13 minor because of exceptional circumstances that do not include
14 an unwillingness to accept legal or financial responsibility for the
15 minor, but who is willing and capable of providing the minor with
16 a stable and permanent home environment, and the removal of the
17 minor from the physical custody of his or her relative would be
18 detrimental to the minor's emotional well-being.

19 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the ability
20 of a parent to voluntarily relinquish his or her child to the State
21 Department of Social Services when it is acting as an adoption
22 agency or to a county adoption agency at any time while the minor
23 is a ward of the juvenile court if the department or county adoption
24 agency is willing to accept the relinquishment.

25 (e) Any change in the permanent plan of a minor placed with a
26 fit and willing relative or in a planned permanent living
27 arrangement shall be made only by order of the court pursuant to
28 a Section 778 petition or at a regularly scheduled and noticed status
29 review hearing or permanency planning hearing. Any change in
30 the permanent plan of a minor placed in a guardianship shall be
31 made only by order of the court pursuant to a motion filed in
32 accordance with Section 728.

33 SEC. 14. Section 11400 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
34 is amended to read:

35 11400. For purposes of this article, the following definitions
36 shall apply:

37 (a) "Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care
38 (AFDC-FC)" means the aid provided on behalf of needy children
39 in foster care under the terms of this division.

1 (b) “Case plan” means a written document that, at a minimum,
2 specifies the type of home in which the child shall be placed, the
3 safety of that home, and the appropriateness of that home to meet
4 the child’s needs. It shall also include the agency’s plan for
5 ensuring that the child receive proper care and protection in a safe
6 environment, and shall set forth the appropriate services to be
7 provided to the child, the child’s family, and the foster parents, in
8 order to meet the child’s needs while in foster care, and to reunify
9 the child with the child’s family. In addition, the plan shall specify
10 the services that will be provided or steps that will be taken to
11 facilitate an alternate permanent plan if reunification is not possible.

12 (c) “Certified family home” means a family residence certified
13 by a licensed foster family agency and issued a certificate of
14 approval by that agency as meeting licensing standards, and used
15 only by that foster family agency for placements.

16 (d) “Family home” means the family residence of a licensee in
17 which 24-hour care and supervision are provided for children.

18 (e) “Small family home” means any residential facility, in the
19 licensee’s family residence, which provides 24-hour care for six
20 or fewer foster children who have mental disorders or
21 developmental or physical disabilities and who require special care
22 and supervision as a result of their disabilities.

23 (f) “Foster care” means the 24-hour out-of-home care provided
24 to children whose own families are unable or unwilling to care for
25 them, and who are in need of temporary or long-term substitute
26 parenting.

27 (g) “Foster family agency” means a licensed community care
28 facility, as defined in paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section
29 1502 of the Health and Safety Code. Private foster family agencies
30 shall be organized and operated on a nonprofit basis.

31 (h) “Group home” means a nondetention privately operated
32 residential home, organized and operated on a nonprofit basis only,
33 of any capacity, or a nondetention licensed residential care home
34 operated by the County of San Mateo with a capacity of up to 25
35 beds, that accepts children in need of care and supervision in a
36 group home, as defined by paragraph (13) of subdivision (a) of
37 Section 1502 of the Health and Safety Code.

38 (i) “Periodic review” means review of a child’s status by the
39 juvenile court or by an administrative review panel, that shall
40 include a consideration of the safety of the child, a determination

1 of the continuing need for placement in foster care, evaluation of
2 the goals for the placement and the progress toward meeting these
3 goals, and development of a target date for the child's return home
4 or establishment of alternative permanent placement.

5 (j) "Permanency planning hearing" means a hearing conducted
6 by the juvenile court in which the child's future status, including
7 whether the child shall be returned home or another permanent
8 plan shall be developed, is determined.

9 (k) "Placement and care" refers to the responsibility for the
10 welfare of a child vested in an agency or organization by virtue of
11 the agency or organization having (1) been delegated care, custody,
12 and control of a child by the juvenile court, (2) taken responsibility,
13 pursuant to a relinquishment or termination of parental rights on
14 a child, (3) taken the responsibility of supervising a child detained
15 by the juvenile court pursuant to Section 319 or 636, or (4) signed
16 a voluntary placement agreement for the child's placement; or to
17 the responsibility designated to an individual by virtue of his or
18 her being appointed the child's legal guardian.

19 (l) "Preplacement preventive services" means services that are
20 designed to help children remain with their families by preventing
21 or eliminating the need for removal.

22 (m) "Relative" means an adult who is related to the child by
23 blood, adoption, or affinity within the fifth degree of kinship,
24 including stepparents, stepsiblings, and all relatives whose status
25 is preceded by the words "great," "great-great," or "grand" or the
26 spouse of any of these persons even if the marriage was terminated
27 by death or dissolution.

28 (n) "Nonrelative extended family member" means an adult
29 caregiver who has an established familial or mentoring relationship
30 with the child, as described in Section 362.7.

31 (o) "Voluntary placement" means an out-of-home placement
32 of a child by (1) the county welfare department, probation
33 department, or Indian tribe that has entered into an agreement
34 pursuant to Section 10553.1, after the parents or guardians have
35 requested the assistance of the county welfare department and have
36 signed a voluntary placement agreement; or (2) the county welfare
37 department licensed public or private adoption agency, or the
38 department acting as an adoption agency, after the parents have
39 requested the assistance of either the county welfare department,
40 the licensed public or private adoption agency, or the department

1 acting as an adoption agency for the purpose of adoption planning,
2 and have signed a voluntary placement agreement.

3 (p) “Voluntary placement agreement” means a written agreement
4 between either the county welfare department, probation
5 department, or Indian tribe that has entered into an agreement
6 pursuant to Section 10553.1, licensed public or private adoption
7 agency, or the department acting as an adoption agency, and the
8 parents or guardians of a child that specifies, at a minimum, the
9 following:

10 (1) The legal status of the child.

11 (2) The rights and obligations of the parents or guardians, the
12 child, and the agency in which the child is placed.

13 (q) “Original placement date” means the most recent date on
14 which the court detained a child and ordered an agency to be
15 responsible for supervising the child or the date on which an agency
16 assumed responsibility for a child due to termination of parental
17 rights, relinquishment, or voluntary placement.

18 (r) (1) “Transitional housing placement provider” means an
19 organization licensed by the State Department of Social Services
20 pursuant to Section 1559.110 of the Health and Safety Code, to
21 provide transitional housing to foster children at least 16 years of
22 age and not more than 18 years of age, and nonminor dependents,
23 as defined in subdivision (v). A transitional housing placement
24 provider shall be privately operated and organized on a nonprofit
25 basis.

26 (2) Prior to licensure, a provider shall obtain certification from
27 the applicable county, in accordance with Section 16522.1.

28 (s) “Transitional Housing Program-Plus” means a provider
29 certified by the applicable county, in accordance with subdivision
30 (c) of Section 16522, to provide transitional housing services to
31 former foster youth who have exited the foster care system on or
32 after their 18th birthday.

33 (t) “Whole family foster home” means a new or existing family
34 home, approved relative caregiver or nonrelative extended family
35 member’s home, the home of a nonrelated legal guardian whose
36 guardianship was established pursuant to Section 360 or 366.26,
37 certified family home, or a host family home placement of a
38 transitional housing placement provider, that provides foster care
39 for a minor or nonminor dependent parent and his or her child,
40 and is specifically recruited and trained to assist the minor or

1 nonminor dependent parent in developing the skills necessary to
2 provide a safe, stable, and permanent home for his or her child.
3 The child of the minor or nonminor dependent parent need not be
4 the subject of a petition filed pursuant to Section 300 to qualify
5 for placement in a whole family foster home.

6 (u) “Mutual agreement” means any of the following:

7 (1) A written voluntary agreement of consent for continued
8 placement and care in a supervised setting between a minor or, on
9 and after January 1, 2012, a nonminor dependent, and the county
10 welfare services or probation department or tribal agency
11 responsible for the foster care placement, that documents the
12 nonminor’s continued willingness to remain in supervised
13 out-of-home placement under the placement and care of the
14 responsible county, tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal
15 organization that has entered into an agreement with the state
16 pursuant to Section 10553.1, remain under the jurisdiction of the
17 juvenile court as a nonminor dependent, and report any change of
18 circumstances relevant to continued eligibility for foster care
19 payments, and that documents the nonminor’s and social worker’s
20 or probation officer’s agreement to work together to facilitate
21 implementation of the mutually developed supervised placement
22 agreement and transitional independent living case plan.

23 (2) An agreement, as described in paragraph (1), between a
24 nonminor former dependent or ward in receipt of Kin-GAP
25 payments under Article 4.5 (commencing with Section 11360) or
26 Article 4.7 (commencing with Section 11385), and the agency
27 responsible for the Kin-GAP benefits, provided that the nonminor
28 former dependent or ward satisfies the conditions described in
29 Section 11403.01, or one or more of the conditions described in
30 paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section
31 11403. For purposes of this paragraph and paragraph (3),
32 “nonminor former dependent or ward” has the same meaning as
33 described in subdivision (aa).

34 (3) An agreement, as described in paragraph (1), between a
35 nonminor former dependent or ward in receipt of AFDC-FC
36 payments under subdivision (e) or (f) of Section 11405 and the
37 agency responsible for the AFDC-FC benefits, provided that the
38 nonminor former dependent or ward described in subdivision (e)
39 of Section 11405 satisfies one or more of the conditions described
40 in paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section

1 11403, and the nonminor described in subdivision (f) of Section
2 11405 satisfies the secondary school or equivalent training or
3 certificate program conditions described in that subdivision.

4 (v) “Nonminor dependent” means, on and after January 1, 2012,
5 a foster child, as described in Section 675(8)(B) of Title 42 of the
6 United States Code under the federal Social Security Act who is
7 a current dependent child or ward of the juvenile court, or who is
8 a nonminor under the transition jurisdiction of the juvenile court,
9 as described in Section 450, and who satisfies all of the following
10 criteria:

11 (1) He or she has attained 18 years of age while under an order
12 of foster care placement by the juvenile court, and is not more than
13 19 years of age on or after January 1, 2012, not more than 20 years
14 of age on or after January 1, 2013, or not more than 21 years of
15 age on or after January 1, 2014, and as described in Section
16 10103.5.

17 (2) He or she is in foster care under the placement and care
18 responsibility of the county welfare department, county probation
19 department, Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization
20 that entered into an agreement pursuant to Section 10553.1.

21 (3) He or she has a transitional independent living case plan
22 pursuant to Section 475(8) of the federal Social Security Act (42
23 U.S.C. Sec. 675(8)), as contained in the federal Fostering
24 Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008
25 (Public Law 110-351), as described in Section 11403.

26 (w) “Supervised independent living placement” means, on and
27 after January 1, 2012, an independent supervised setting, as
28 specified in a nonminor dependent’s transitional independent living
29 case plan, in which the youth is living independently, pursuant to
30 Section 472(c)(2) of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
31 Sec. 672(c)(2)).

32 (x) “Supervised independent living setting,” pursuant to Section
33 472(c)(2) of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec.
34 672(c)(2)), includes both a supervised independent living
35 placement, as defined in subdivision (w), and a residential housing
36 unit certified by the transitional housing placement provider
37 operating a Transitional Housing Placement-Plus Foster Care
38 program, as described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section
39 16522.1.

(y) “Transitional independent living case plan” means, on or after January 1, 2012, a child’s case plan submitted for the last review hearing held before he or she reaches 18 years of age or the nonminor dependent’s case plan, updated every six months, that describes the goals and objectives of how the nonminor will make progress in the transition to living independently and assume incremental responsibility for adult decisionmaking, the collaborative efforts between the nonminor and the social worker, probation officer, or Indian tribal placing entity and the supportive services as described in the transitional independent living plan (TILP) to ensure active and meaningful participation in one or more of the eligibility criteria described in paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 11403, the nonminor’s appropriate supervised placement setting, and the nonminor’s permanent plan for transition to living independently, which includes maintaining or obtaining permanent connections to caring and committed adults, as set forth in ~~paragraph (16) of subdivision (f)~~ *paragraphs (16) and (17) of subdivision (g)* of Section 16501.1.

(z) “Voluntary reentry agreement” means a written voluntary agreement between a former dependent child or ward or a former nonminor dependent, who has had juvenile court jurisdiction terminated pursuant to Section 391, 452, or 607.2, and the county welfare or probation department or tribal placing entity that documents the nonminor’s desire and willingness to reenter foster care, to be placed in a supervised setting under the placement and care responsibility of the placing agency, the nonminor’s desire, willingness, and ability to immediately participate in one or more of the conditions of paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 11403, the nonminor’s agreement to work collaboratively with the placing agency to develop his or her transitional independent living case plan within 60 days of reentry, the nonminor’s agreement to report any changes of circumstances relevant to continued eligibility for foster care payments, and (1) the nonminor’s agreement to participate in the filing of a petition for juvenile court jurisdiction as a nonminor dependent pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 388 within 15 judicial days of the signing of the agreement and the placing agency’s efforts and supportive services to assist the nonminor in the reentry process, or (2) if the nonminor meets the definition of a nonminor former dependent or ward, as described in subdivision (aa), the nonminor’s

1 agreement to return to the care and support of his or her former
2 juvenile court-appointed guardian and meet the eligibility criteria
3 for AFDC-FC pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 11405.

4 (aa) “Nonminor former dependent or ward” means, on and after
5 January 1, 2012, either of the following:

6 (1) A nonminor who reached 18 years of age while subject to
7 an order for foster care placement, and for whom dependency,
8 delinquency, or transition jurisdiction has been terminated, and
9 who is still under the general jurisdiction of the court.

10 (2) A nonminor who is over 18 years of age and, while a minor,
11 was a dependent child or ward of the juvenile court when the
12 guardianship was established pursuant to Section 360 or 366.26,
13 or subdivision (d), of Section 728 and the juvenile court
14 dependency or wardship was dismissed following the establishment
15 of the guardianship.

16 (ab) “Runaway and homeless youth shelter” means a type of
17 group home, as defined in paragraph (14) of subdivision (a) of
18 Section 1502 of the Health and Safety Code, that is not an eligible
19 placement option under Sections 319, 361.2, 450, and 727, and
20 that is not eligible for AFDC-FC funding pursuant to subdivision
21 (c) of Section 11402 or Section 11462.

22 (ac) “Transition dependent” is a minor between 17 years and
23 five months and 18 years of age who is subject to the court’s
24 transition jurisdiction under Section 450.

25 (ad) “Short-term residential treatment center” means a
26 nondetention, licensed community care facility, as defined in
27 paragraph (18) of subdivision (a) of Section 1502 of the Health
28 and Safety Code, that provides short-term, specialized, and
29 intensive treatment for the child or youth, when the child’s or
30 youth’s case plan specifies the need for, nature of, and anticipated
31 duration of this specialized treatment.

32 (ae) “Resource family” means an approved caregiver, as defined
33 in subdivision (c) of Section 16519.5.

34 (af) “Core Services” mean services, made available to children,
35 youth, and nonminor dependents either directly or secured through
36 formal agreement with other agencies, which are trauma informed
37 and culturally relevant as specified in Sections 11462 and 11463.

38 (ag) “*Child-centered specialized permanency services*” means
39 *services designed for, and with, the child to address the child’s*
40 *history of trauma, separation, and loss. Those services shall include*

1 *mental health services, as necessary, or other services that are*
2 *needed to ameliorate impairments in significant areas of life*
3 *functioning that may reduce the likelihood of the child achieving*
4 *a permanent family. These services shall utilize family finding and*
5 *engagement, including, but not limited to, using search technology*
6 *and social media to locate family members, and child-specific*
7 *recruitment to assist the child in achieving a permanent family*
8 *through reunification, adoption, legal guardianship, or other*
9 *lifelong connections to caring adults, including at least one adult*
10 *who will provide a permanent, parent-like relationship for that*
11 *child. These services include services designed to prepare the*
12 *permanent family to meet the child's needs, set appropriate*
13 *expectations for before and after permanency, and stabilize the*
14 *placement.*

15 SEC. 15. Section 16501 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
16 is amended to read:

17 16501. (a) (1) As used in this chapter, "child welfare services"
18 means public social services that are directed toward the
19 accomplishment of any or all of the following purposes: protecting
20 and promoting the welfare of all children, including disabled,
21 homeless, dependent, or neglected children; preventing or
22 remedying, or assisting in the solution of problems which may
23 result in, the neglect, abuse, exploitation, or delinquency of
24 children; preventing the unnecessary separation of children from
25 their families by identifying family problems, assisting families
26 in resolving their problems, and preventing breakup of the family
27 where the prevention of child removal is desirable and possible;
28 restoring to their families children who have been removed, by
29 the provision of services to the child and the families; identifying
30 children to be placed in suitable adoptive homes, in cases where
31 restoration to the biological family is not possible or appropriate;
32 and ensuring adequate care of children away from their homes, in
33 cases where the child cannot be returned home or cannot be placed
34 for adoption.

35 (2) "Child welfare services" also means services provided on
36 behalf of children alleged to be the victims of child abuse, neglect,
37 or exploitation. The child welfare services provided on behalf of
38 each child represent a continuum of services, including emergency
39 response services, family preservation services, family maintenance
40 services, family reunification services, and permanent placement

1 services, including supportive transition services. The individual
2 child's case plan is the guiding principle in the provision of these
3 services. The case plan shall be developed within a maximum of
4 60 days of the initial removal of the child or of the in-person
5 response required under subdivision (f) if the child has not been
6 removed from his or her home, or by the date of the dispositional
7 hearing pursuant to Section 358, whichever comes first.

8 (3) "Child welfare services" are best provided in a framework
9 that integrates service planning and delivery among multiple
10 service systems, including the mental health system, using a
11 team-based approach, such as a child and family team. A child
12 and family team brings together individuals that engage with the
13 child or youth and family in assessing, planning, and delivering
14 services consistent with paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section
15 16501.1. Use of a team approach increases efficiency, and thus
16 reduces cost, by increasing coordination of formal services and
17 integrating the natural and informal supports available to the child
18 or youth and family.

19 (4) "Child and family team" means a group of individuals who
20 are convened by the placing agency and who are engaged through
21 a variety of team-based processes to identify the strengths and
22 needs of the child or youth and his or her family, and to help
23 achieve positive outcomes for safety, permanency, and well-being.

24 (A) The activities of the team shall include, but not be limited
25 to, both of the following:

26 (i) Providing input into the development of a child and family
27 plan that is strengths-based, needs-driven, and culturally relevant.

28 (ii) Providing input into the placement decision made by the
29 placing agency and the services to be provided in order to support
30 the child or youth.

31 (B) The child and family team process shall engage the child
32 or youth, the child's family, and other people important to the
33 family or to the child or youth in meeting the objectives set forth
34 in subparagraph (A). The child and family team shall also include
35 representatives who provide formal supports to the child or youth
36 and family when appropriate, including, but not limited to, the
37 caregiver, the placing agency caseworker, a representative from a
38 foster family agency or short-term residential treatment center with
39 which a child or youth is placed, a county mental health
40 representative, a representative from the regional center when the

1 child is eligible for regional center service, and a representative
2 of the child's or youth's tribe or Indian custodian, as applicable.
3 As appropriate, the child and family team also may include other
4 formal supports, such as substance use disorder treatment
5 professionals and educational professionals, providing services to
6 the child or youth and family. For purposes of this definition, the
7 child and family team also may include extended family and
8 informal support persons, such as friends, coaches, faith-based
9 connections, and tribes as identified by the child or youth and
10 family. If placement into a short-term residential treatment center
11 or a foster family agency that provides treatment services has
12 occurred or is being considered, the mental health representative
13 is required to be a licensed mental health professional. Any party
14 to the child's case who is represented by an attorney may consult
15 with his or her attorney regarding this process. The child or youth
16 and his or her family may request specific persons to be included
17 on the child and family team. Nothing shall preclude another
18 agency serving the child or youth from convening a team in
19 collaboration with the placing agency.

20 (5) Child welfare services may include, but are not limited to,
21 a range of service-funded activities, including case management,
22 counseling, emergency shelter care, emergency in-home caretakers,
23 temporary in-home caretakers, respite care, therapeutic day
24 services, teaching and demonstrating homemakers, parenting
25 training, substance abuse testing, and transportation. These
26 service-funded activities shall be available to children and their
27 families in all phases of the child welfare program in accordance
28 with the child's case plan and departmental regulations. Funding
29 for services is limited to the amount appropriated in the annual
30 Budget Act and other available county funds.

31 (6) Service-funded activities to be provided may be determined
32 by each county, based upon individual child and family needs as
33 reflected in the service plan.

34 (7) As used in this chapter, "emergency shelter care" means
35 emergency shelter provided to children who have been removed
36 pursuant to Section 300 from their parent or parents or their
37 guardian or guardians. The department may establish, by
38 regulation, the time periods for which emergency shelter care shall
39 be funded. For the purposes of this paragraph, "emergency shelter
40 care" may include "transitional shelter care facilities" as defined

1 in paragraph (11) of subdivision (a) of Section 1502 of the Health
2 and Safety Code.

3 (b) As used in this chapter, “respite care” means temporary care
4 for periods not to exceed 72 hours, and, in order to preserve the
5 placement, may be extended up to 14 days in any one month
6 pending the development of policies and regulations in consultation
7 with county placing agencies and stakeholders. This care may be
8 provided to the child’s parents or guardians. This care shall not be
9 limited by regulation to care over 24 hours. These services shall
10 not be provided for the purpose of routine, ongoing child care.

11 (c) The county shall provide child welfare services as needed
12 pursuant to an approved service plan and in accordance with
13 regulations promulgated, in consultation with the counties, by the
14 department. Counties may contract for service-funded activities
15 as defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a). Counties shall not
16 contract for needs assessment, client eligibility determination, or
17 any other activity as specified by regulations of the State
18 Department of Social Services, except as specifically authorized
19 in Section 16100.

20 (d) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to affect duties
21 which are delegated to probation officers pursuant to Sections 601
22 and 654.

23 (e) Any county may utilize volunteer individuals to supplement
24 professional child welfare services by providing ancillary support
25 services in accordance with regulations adopted by the State
26 Department of Social Services.

27 (f) As used in this chapter, emergency response services consist
28 of a response system providing in-person response, 24 hours a day,
29 seven days a week, to reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, as
30 required by Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 11164) of
31 Chapter 2 of Title 1 of Part 4 of the Penal Code for the purpose of
32 investigation pursuant to Section 11166 of the Penal Code and to
33 determine the necessity for providing initial intake services and
34 crisis intervention to maintain the child safely in his or her own
35 home or to protect the safety of the child. County welfare
36 departments shall respond to any report of imminent danger to a
37 child immediately and all other reports within 10 calendar days.
38 An in-person response is not required when the county welfare
39 department, based upon an evaluation of risk, determines that an
40 in-person response is not appropriate. This evaluation includes

1 collateral, contacts, a review of previous referrals, and other
2 relevant information, as indicated.

3 (g) As used in this chapter, family maintenance services are
4 activities designed to provide in-home protective services to
5 prevent or remedy neglect, abuse, or exploitation, for the purposes
6 of preventing separation of children from their families.

7 (h) As used in this chapter, family reunification services are
8 activities designed to provide time-limited foster care services to
9 prevent or remedy neglect, abuse, or exploitation, when the child
10 cannot safely remain at home, and needs temporary foster care,
11 while services are provided to reunite the family.

12 (i) (1) As used in this chapter, permanent placement services
13 are activities designed to provide an alternate permanent family
14 structure for children who because of abuse, neglect, or exploitation
15 cannot safely remain at home and who are unlikely to ever return
16 home. These services shall be provided on behalf of children for
17 whom there has been a judicial determination of a permanent plan
18 for adoption, legal guardianship, placement with a fit and willing
19 relative, or continued foster care placement, and, as needed, shall
20 include *child-centered permanency services, as defined in Section*
21 *11400, and supportive transition services to nonminor dependents,*
22 *as described in subdivision (v) of Section 11400.*

23 (2) For purposes of this section, “another planned permanent
24 living arrangement” means a permanent plan ordered by the court
25 for a child 16 years of age or older or a nonminor dependent, when
26 there is a compelling reason or reasons to determine that it is not
27 in the best interest of the child or nonminor dependent to return
28 home, be placed for adoption, be placed for tribal customary
29 adoption in the case of an Indian child, or be placed with a fit and
30 willing relative. Placement in a group home, or, on and after
31 January 1, 2017, a short-term residential treatment facility, shall
32 not be the identified permanent plan for any child or nonminor
33 dependent.

34 (j) As used in this chapter, family preservation services include
35 those services specified in Section 16500.5 to avoid or limit
36 out-of-home placement of children, and may include those services
37 specified in that section to place children in the least restrictive
38 environment possible.

39 (k) (1) (A) In any county electing to implement this
40 subdivision, all county welfare department employees who have

1 frequent and routine contact with children shall, by February 1,
2 1997, and all welfare department employees who are expected to
3 have frequent and routine contact with children and who are hired
4 on or after January 1, 1996, and all such employees whose duties
5 change after January 1, 1996, to include frequent and routine
6 contact with children, shall, if the employees provide services to
7 children who are alleged victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation,
8 sign a declaration under penalty of perjury regarding any prior
9 criminal conviction, and shall provide a set of fingerprints to the
10 county welfare director.

11 (B) The county welfare director shall secure from the
12 Department of Justice a criminal record to determine whether the
13 employee has ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor
14 traffic violation. The Department of Justice shall deliver the
15 criminal record to the county welfare director.

16 (C) If it is found that the employee has been convicted of a
17 crime, other than a minor traffic violation, the county welfare
18 director shall determine whether there is substantial and convincing
19 evidence to support a reasonable belief that the employee is of
20 good character so as to justify frequent and routine contact with
21 children.

22 (D) No exemption shall be granted pursuant to subparagraph
23 (C) if the person has been convicted of a sex offense against a
24 minor, or has been convicted of an offense specified in Section
25 220, 243.4, 264.1, 273d, 288, or 289 of the Penal Code, or in
26 paragraph (1) of Section 273a of, or subdivision (a) or (b) of
27 Section 368 of, the Penal Code, or has been convicted of an offense
28 specified in subdivision (c) of Section 667.5 of the Penal Code.
29 The county welfare director shall suspend such a person from any
30 duties involving frequent and routine contact with children.

31 (E) Notwithstanding subparagraph (D), the county welfare
32 director may grant an exemption if the employee or prospective
33 employee, who was convicted of a crime against an individual
34 specified in paragraph (1) or (7) of subdivision (c) of Section 667.5
35 of the Penal Code, has been rehabilitated as provided in Section
36 4852.03 of the Penal Code and has maintained the conduct required
37 in Section 4852.05 of the Penal Code for at least 10 years and has
38 the recommendation of the district attorney representing the
39 employee's or prospective employee's county of residence, or if
40 the employee or prospective employee has received a certificate

1 of rehabilitation pursuant to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section
2 4852.01) of Title 6 of Part 3 of the Penal Code. In that case, the
3 county welfare director may give the employee or prospective
4 employee an opportunity to explain the conviction and shall
5 consider that explanation in the evaluation of the criminal
6 conviction record.

7 (F) If no criminal record information has been recorded, the
8 county welfare director shall cause a statement of that fact to be
9 included in that person's personnel file.

10 (2) For purposes of this subdivision, a conviction means a plea
11 or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo
12 contendere. Any action that the county welfare director is permitted
13 to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken
14 when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction
15 has been affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation
16 is made suspending the imposition of sentence, notwithstanding
17 a subsequent order pursuant to Sections 1203.4 and 1203.4a of the
18 Penal Code permitting the person to withdraw his or her plea of
19 guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict
20 of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, information, or indictment.
21 For purposes of this subdivision, the record of a conviction, or a
22 copy thereof certified by the clerk of the court or by a judge of the
23 court in which the conviction occurred, shall be conclusive
24 evidence of the conviction.

25 SEC. 16. Section 16501.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
26 is amended to read:

27 16501.1. (a) (1) The Legislature finds and declares that the
28 foundation and central unifying tool in child welfare services is
29 the case plan.

30 (2) The Legislature further finds and declares that a case plan
31 ensures that the child receives protection and safe and proper care
32 and case management, and that services are provided to the child
33 and parents or other caretakers, as appropriate, in order to improve
34 conditions in the parent's home, to facilitate the safe return of the
35 child to a safe home or the permanent placement of the child, and
36 to address the needs of the child while in foster care.

37 (3) The agency shall consider the recommendations of the child
38 and family team, as defined in paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of
39 Section 16501, if any are available. The agency shall document

1 the rationale for any inconsistencies between the case plan and the
2 child and family team recommendations.

3 (b) (1) A case plan shall be based upon the principles of this
4 section and the input from the child and family team.

5 (2) The case plan shall document that a preplacement assessment
6 of the service needs of the child and family, and preplacement
7 preventive services, have been provided, and that reasonable efforts
8 to prevent out-of-home placement have been made. Preplacement
9 services may include intensive mental health services in the home
10 or a community setting and the reasonable efforts made to prevent
11 out-of-home placement.

12 (3) In determining the reasonable services to be offered or
13 provided, the child's health and safety shall be the paramount
14 concerns.

15 (4) Upon a determination pursuant to paragraph (1) of
16 subdivision (e) of Section 361.5 that reasonable services will be
17 offered to a parent who is incarcerated in a county jail or state
18 prison, detained by the United States Department of Homeland
19 Security, or deported to his or her country of origin, the case plan
20 shall include information, to the extent possible, about a parent's
21 incarceration in a county jail or the state prison, detention by the
22 United States Department of Homeland Security, or deportation
23 during the time that a minor child of that parent is involved in
24 dependency care.

25 (5) Reasonable services shall be offered or provided to make it
26 possible for a child to return to a safe home environment, unless,
27 pursuant to subdivisions (b) and (e) of Section 361.5, the court
28 determines that reunification services shall not be provided.

29 (6) If reasonable services are not ordered, or are terminated,
30 reasonable efforts shall be made to place the child in a timely
31 manner in accordance with the permanent plan and to complete
32 all steps necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child.

33 (c) If out-of-home placement is used to attain case plan goals,
34 the case plan shall consider the recommendations of the child and
35 family team.

36 (d) (1) The case plan shall include a description of the type of
37 home or institution in which the child is to be placed, and the
38 reasons for that placement decision. The decision regarding choice
39 of placement shall be based upon selection of a safe setting that is
40 the least restrictive family setting that promotes normal childhood

1 experiences and the most appropriate setting that meets the child's
2 individual needs and is available, in proximity to the parent's home,
3 in proximity to the child's school, and consistent with the selection
4 of the environment best suited to meet the child's special needs
5 and best interests. The selection shall consider, in order of priority,
6 placement with relatives, nonrelated extended family members,
7 and tribal members; foster family homes, resource families, and
8 nontreatment certified homes of foster family agencies; followed
9 by treatment and intensive treatment certified homes of foster
10 family agencies; or multidimensional treatment foster care homes
11 or therapeutic foster care homes; group care placements in the
12 order of short-term residential treatment centers, group homes,
13 community treatment facilities, and out-of-state residential
14 treatment pursuant to Part 5 (commencing with Section 7900) of
15 Division 12 of the Family Code.

16 (2) If a short-term intensive treatment center placement is
17 selected for a child, the case plan shall indicate the needs of the
18 child that necessitate this placement, the plan for transitioning the
19 child to a less restrictive environment, and the projected timeline
20 by which the child will be transitioned to a less restrictive
21 environment. This section of the case plan shall be reviewed and
22 updated at least semiannually.

23 (A) The case plan for placements in a group home, or
24 commencing January 1, 2017, in a short-term residential treatment
25 center, shall indicate that the county has taken into consideration
26 Section 16010.8.

27 (B) After January 1, 2017, a child and family team meeting as
28 defined in Section 16501 shall be convened by the county placing
29 agency for the purpose of identifying the supports and services
30 needed to achieve permanency and enable the child or youth to be
31 placed in the least restrictive family setting that promotes normal
32 childhood experiences.

33 (3) On or after January 1, 2012, for a nonminor dependent, as
34 defined in subdivision (v) of Section 11400, who is receiving
35 AFDC-FC benefits up to 21 years of age pursuant to Section 11403,
36 in addition to the above requirements, the selection of the
37 placement, including a supervised independent living placement,
38 as described in subdivision (w) of Section 11400, shall also be
39 based upon the developmental needs of young adults by providing
40 opportunities to have incremental responsibilities that prepare a

1 nonminor dependent to transition to successful adulthood. If
2 admission to, or continuation in, a group home or short-term
3 residential treatment center placement is being considered for a
4 nonminor dependent, the group home or short-term residential
5 treatment center placement approval decision shall include a
6 youth-driven, team-based case planning process, as defined by the
7 department, in consultation with stakeholders. The case plan shall
8 consider the full range of placement options, and shall specify why
9 admission to, or continuation in, a group home placement is the
10 best alternative available at the time to meet the special needs or
11 well-being of the nonminor dependent, and how the placement
12 will contribute to the nonminor dependent's transition to successful
13 adulthood. The case plan shall specify the treatment strategies that
14 will be used to prepare the nonminor dependent for discharge to
15 a less restrictive family setting that promotes normal childhood
16 experiences, including a target date for discharge from the group
17 home placement. The placement shall be reviewed and updated
18 on a regular, periodic basis to ensure that continuation in the group
19 home placement remains in the best interests of the nonminor
20 dependent and that progress is being made in achieving case plan
21 goals leading to successful adulthood. The group home placement
22 planning process shall begin as soon as it becomes clear to the
23 county welfare department or probation office that a foster child
24 in group home placement is likely to remain in group home
25 placement on his or her 18th birthday, in order to expedite the
26 transition to a less restrictive family setting that promotes normal
27 childhood experiences, if he or she becomes a nonminor dependent.
28 The case planning process shall include informing the youth of all
29 of his or her options, including, but not limited to, admission to
30 or continuation in a group home ~~placement~~. *placement and the*
31 *provision of child-centered specialized permanency services, as*
32 *defined in Section 11400.* Consideration for continuation of existing
33 group home placement for a nonminor dependent under 19 years
34 of age may include the need to stay in the same placement in order
35 to complete high school. After a nonminor dependent either
36 completes high school or attains his or her 19th birthday, whichever
37 is earlier, continuation in or admission to a group home placement
38 is prohibited unless the nonminor dependent satisfies the conditions
39 of paragraph (5) of subdivision (b) of Section 11403, and group
40 home placement functions as a short-term transition to the

1 appropriate system of care. Treatment services provided by the
2 group home placement to the nonminor dependent to alleviate or
3 ameliorate the medical condition, as described in paragraph (5) of
4 subdivision (b) of Section 11403, shall not constitute the sole basis
5 to disqualify a nonminor dependent from the group home
6 placement.

7 (4) In addition to the requirements of paragraphs (1) to (3),
8 inclusive, and taking into account other statutory considerations
9 regarding placement, the selection of the most appropriate home
10 that will meet the child's special needs and best interests shall also
11 promote educational stability by taking into consideration
12 proximity to the child's school of origin, and school attendance
13 area, the number of school transfers the child has previously
14 experienced, and the child's school matriculation schedule, in
15 addition to other indicators of educational stability that the
16 Legislature hereby encourages the State Department of Social
17 Services and the State Department of Education to develop.

18 (e) A written case plan shall be completed within a maximum
19 of 60 days of the initial removal of the child or of the in-person
20 response required under subdivision (f) of Section 16501 if the
21 child has not been removed from his or her home, or by the date
22 of the dispositional hearing pursuant to Section 358, whichever
23 occurs first. The case plan shall be updated, as the service needs
24 of the child and family dictate. At a minimum, the case plan shall
25 be updated in conjunction with each status review hearing
26 conducted pursuant to Sections 364, 366, 366.3, and 366.31, and
27 the hearing conducted pursuant to Section 366.26, but no less
28 frequently than once every six months. Each updated case plan
29 shall include a description of the services that have been provided
30 to the child under the plan and an evaluation of the appropriateness
31 and effectiveness of those services.

32 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that extending the maximum
33 time available for preparing a written case plan from 30 to 60 days
34 will afford caseworkers time to actively engage families, and to
35 solicit and integrate into the case plan the input of the child and
36 the child's family, as well as the input of relatives and other
37 interested parties.

38 (2) The extension of the maximum time available for preparing
39 a written case plan from the 30 to 60 days shall be effective 90
40 days after the date that the department gives counties written notice

1 that necessary changes have been made to the Child Welfare
2 Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) to account for
3 the 60-day timeframe for preparing a written case plan.

4 (f) The child welfare services case plan shall be comprehensive
5 enough to meet the juvenile court dependency proceedings
6 requirements pursuant to Article 6 (commencing with Section 300)
7 of Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 2.

8 (g) The case plan shall be developed considering the
9 recommendations of the child and family team, as follows:

10 (1) The case plan shall be based upon an assessment of the
11 circumstances that required child welfare services intervention.
12 The child shall be involved in developing the case plan as age and
13 developmentally appropriate.

14 (2) The case plan shall identify specific goals and the
15 appropriateness of the planned services in meeting those goals.

16 (3) The case plan shall identify the original allegations of abuse
17 or neglect, as defined in Article 2.5 (commencing with Section
18 11164) of Chapter 2 of Title 1 of Part 4 of the Penal Code, or the
19 conditions cited as the basis for declaring the child a dependent of
20 the court pursuant to Section 300, or all of these, and the other
21 precipitating incidents that led to child welfare services
22 intervention.

23 (4) The case plan shall include a description of the schedule of
24 the placement agency contacts with the child and the family or
25 other caretakers. The frequency of these contacts shall be in
26 accordance with regulations adopted by the State Department of
27 Social Services. If the child has been placed in foster care out of
28 state, the county social worker or probation officer, or a social
29 worker or probation officer on the staff of the agency in the state
30 in which the child has been placed, shall visit the child in a foster
31 family home or the home of a relative, consistent with federal law
32 and in accordance with the department's approved state plan. For
33 children in out-of-state group home facilities, visits shall be
34 conducted at least monthly, pursuant to Section 16516.5. At least
35 once every six months, at the time of a regularly scheduled
36 placement agency contact with the foster child, the child's social
37 worker or probation officer shall inform the child of his or her
38 rights as a foster child, as specified in Section 16001.9. The social
39 worker or probation officer shall provide the information to the

1 child in a manner appropriate to the age or developmental level of
2 the child.

3 (5) (A) When out-of-home services are used, the frequency of
4 contact between the natural parents or legal guardians and the child
5 shall be specified in the case plan. The frequency of those contacts
6 shall reflect overall case goals, and consider other principles
7 outlined in this section.

8 (B) Information regarding any court-ordered visitation between
9 the child and the natural parents or legal guardians, and the terms
10 and conditions needed to facilitate the visits while protecting the
11 safety of the child, shall be provided to the child's out-of-home
12 caregiver as soon as possible after the court order is made.

13 (6) When out-of-home placement is made, the case plan shall
14 include provisions for the development and maintenance of sibling
15 relationships as specified in subdivisions (b), (c), and (d) of Section
16 16002. If appropriate, when siblings who are dependents of the
17 juvenile court are not placed together, the social worker for each
18 child, if different, shall communicate with each of the other social
19 workers and ensure that the child's siblings are informed of
20 significant life events that occur within their extended family.
21 Unless it has been determined that it is inappropriate in a particular
22 case to keep siblings informed of significant life events that occur
23 within the extended family, the social worker shall determine the
24 appropriate means and setting for disclosure of this information
25 to the child commensurate with the child's age and emotional
26 well-being. These significant life events shall include, but shall
27 not be limited to, the following:

28 (A) The death of an immediate relative.

29 (B) The birth of a sibling.

30 (C) Significant changes regarding a dependent child, unless the
31 child objects to the sharing of the information with his or her
32 siblings, including changes in placement, major medical or mental
33 health diagnoses, treatments, or hospitalizations, arrests, and
34 changes in the permanent plan.

35 (7) If out-of-home placement is made in a foster family home,
36 group home, or other child care institution that is either a
37 substantial distance from the home of the child's parent or out of
38 state, the case plan shall specify the reasons why that placement
39 is in the best interest of the child. When an out-of-state group home
40 placement is recommended or made, the case plan shall, in

1 addition, specify compliance with Section 7911.1 of the Family
2 Code.

3 (8) A case plan shall ensure the educational stability of the child
4 while in foster care and shall include both of the following:

5 (A) An assurance that the placement takes into account the
6 appropriateness of the current educational setting and the proximity
7 to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement.

8 (B) An assurance that the placement agency has coordinated
9 with the person holding the right to make educational decisions
10 for the child and appropriate local educational agencies to ensure
11 that the child remains in the school in which the child is enrolled
12 at the time of placement or, if remaining in that school is not in
13 the best interests of the child, assurances by the placement agency
14 and the local educational agency to provide immediate and
15 appropriate enrollment in a new school and to provide all of the
16 child's educational records to the new school.

17 (9) (A) If out-of-home services are used, or if parental rights
18 have been terminated and the case plan is placement for adoption,
19 the case plan shall include a recommendation regarding the
20 appropriateness of unsupervised visitation between the child and
21 any of the child's siblings. This recommendation shall include a
22 statement regarding the child's and the siblings' willingness to
23 participate in unsupervised visitation. If the case plan includes a
24 recommendation for unsupervised sibling visitation, the plan shall
25 also note that information necessary to accomplish this visitation
26 has been provided to the child or to the child's siblings.

27 (B) Information regarding the schedule and frequency of the
28 visits between the child and siblings, as well as any court-ordered
29 terms and conditions needed to facilitate the visits while protecting
30 the safety of the child, shall be provided to the child's out-of-home
31 caregiver as soon as possible after the court order is made.

32 (10) If out-of-home services are used and the goal is
33 reunification, the case plan shall describe the services to be
34 provided to assist in reunification and the services to be provided
35 concurrently to achieve legal permanency if efforts to reunify fail.
36 The plan shall also consider in-state and out-of-state placements,
37 the importance of developing and maintaining sibling relationships
38 pursuant to Section 16002, and the desire and willingness of the
39 caregiver to provide legal permanency for the child if reunification
40 is unsuccessful.

1 (11) If out-of-home services are used, the child has been in care
2 for at least 12 months, and the goal is not adoptive placement, the
3 case plan shall include documentation of the compelling reason
4 or reasons why termination of parental rights is not in the child's
5 best interest. A determination completed or updated within the
6 past 12 months by the department when it is acting as an adoption
7 agency or by a licensed adoption agency that it is unlikely that the
8 child will be adopted, or that one of the conditions described in
9 paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 366.26 applies, shall
10 be deemed a compelling reason.

11 (12) (A) Parents and legal guardians shall have an opportunity
12 to review the case plan, and to sign it whenever possible, and then
13 shall receive a copy of the plan. In a voluntary service or placement
14 agreement, the parents or legal guardians shall be required to
15 review and sign the case plan. Whenever possible, parents and
16 legal guardians shall participate in the development of the case
17 plan. Commencing January 1, 2012, for nonminor dependents, as
18 defined in subdivision (v) of Section 11400, who are receiving
19 AFDC-FC or CalWORKs assistance up to 21 years of age pursuant
20 to Section 11403, the transitional independent living case plan, as
21 set forth in subdivision (y) of Section 11400, shall be developed
22 with, and signed by, the nonminor.

23 (B) Parents and legal guardians shall be advised that, pursuant
24 to Section 1228.1 of the Evidence Code, neither their signature on
25 the child welfare services case plan nor their acceptance of any
26 services prescribed in the child welfare services case plan shall
27 constitute an admission of guilt or be used as evidence against the
28 parent or legal guardian in a court of law. However, they shall also
29 be advised that the parent's or guardian's failure to cooperate,
30 except for good cause, in the provision of services specified in the
31 child welfare services case plan may be used in any hearing held
32 pursuant to Section 366.21, 366.22, or 366.25 of this code as
33 evidence.

34 (13) A child shall be given a meaningful opportunity to
35 participate in the development of the case plan and state his or her
36 preference for foster care placement. A child who is 12 years of
37 age or older and in a permanent placement shall also be given the
38 opportunity to review the case plan, sign the case plan, and receive
39 a copy of the case plan.

1 (14) The case plan shall be included in the court report and shall
2 be considered by the court at the initial hearing and each review
3 hearing. Modifications to the case plan made during the period
4 between review hearings need not be approved by the court if the
5 casework supervisor for that case determines that the modifications
6 further the goals of the plan. If out-of-home services are used with
7 the goal of family reunification, the case plan shall consider and
8 describe the application of subdivision (b) of Section 11203.

9 (15) (A) If the case plan has as its goal for the child a permanent
10 plan of adoption or legal guardianship, it shall include a statement
11 of the child's wishes regarding their permanent placement plan
12 and an assessment of those stated wishes. The agency shall also
13 include documentation of the steps the agency is taking to find an
14 adoptive family or other permanent living arrangements for the
15 ~~child~~; *child*, to place the child with an adoptive family, an
16 appropriate and willing relative, or a legal guardian, and to finalize
17 the adoption or legal guardianship. At a minimum, the
18 documentation shall include child-specific recruitment efforts,
19 such as the use of state, regional, and national adoption exchanges,
20 including electronic exchange systems, when the child has been
21 freed for adoption. *The documentation shall also reflect the*
22 *provision of child-centered specialized permanency services, as*
23 *defined in Section 11400.* Regardless of whether the child has been
24 freed for adoption, documentation shall include a description of
25 any barriers to achieving legal permanence and the steps the agency
26 will take to address those ~~barriers~~. *barriers, including the provision*
27 *of child-centered specialized permanency services, as defined in*
28 *Section 11400.* If the plan is for kinship guardianship, the case
29 plan shall document how the child meets the kinship guardianship
30 eligibility requirements.

31 (B) When the child is 16 years of age or older and is in another
32 planned permanent living arrangement, the case plan shall identify
33 the intensive and ongoing ~~efforts~~ *efforts, including child-centered*
34 *specialized permanency services, as defined in Section 11400,* to
35 return the child to the home of the parent, place the child for
36 adoption, place the child for tribal customary adoption in the case
37 of an Indian child, establish a legal guardianship, or place the child
38 nonminor dependent with a fit and willing relative, as appropriate.
39 Efforts shall include the use of technology, including social media,
40 to find biological family members of the child.

(16) (A) (i) For a child who is 14 or 15 years of age, the case plan shall include a written description of the programs and services that will help the child, consistent with the child's best interests, to prepare for the transition from foster care to successful adulthood. The description may be included in the document described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (18).

(ii) When appropriate, for a child who is 16 years of age or older and, commencing January 1, 2012, for a nonminor dependent, the case plan shall include the transitional independent living plan (TILP), a written description of the programs and services that will help the child, consistent with the child's best interests, to prepare for the transition from foster care to successful adulthood, and, in addition, whether the youth has an in-progress application pending for Title XVI Supplemental Security Income benefits or for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status or other applicable application for legal residency and an active dependency case is required for that application. When appropriate, for a nonminor dependent, the transitional independent living case plan, as described in subdivision (v) of Section 11400, shall include the TILP, a written description of the programs and services that will help the nonminor dependent, consistent with his or her best interests, to prepare for transition from foster care and assist the youth in meeting the eligibility criteria set forth in paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 11403. If applicable, the case plan shall describe the individualized supervision provided in the supervised independent living placement as defined in subdivision (w) of Section 11400. The case plan shall be developed with the child or nonminor dependent and individuals identified as important to the child or nonminor dependent, and shall include steps the agency is taking to ensure that the child or nonminor dependent achieves permanence, including maintaining or obtaining permanent connections to caring and committed adults.

(B) During the 90-day period prior to the participant attaining 18 years of age or older as the state may elect under Section 475(8)(B)(iii) of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 675(8)(B)(iii)), whether during that period foster care maintenance payments are being made on the child's behalf or the child is receiving benefits or services under Section 477 of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 677), a caseworker or other appropriate agency staff or probation officer and other

1 representatives of the participant, as appropriate, shall provide the
2 youth or nonminor dependent with assistance and support in
3 developing the written 90-day transition plan, that is personalized
4 at the direction of the child, information as detailed as the
5 participant elects that shall include, but not be limited to, options
6 regarding housing, health insurance, education, local opportunities
7 for mentors and continuing support services, and workforce
8 supports and employment services, a power of attorney for health
9 care, and information regarding the advance health care directive
10 form.

11 (C) For youth 14 years of age or older, the case plan shall
12 include documentation that a consumer credit report was requested
13 annually from each of the three major credit reporting agencies at
14 no charge to the youth and that any results were provided to the
15 youth. For nonminor dependents, the case plan shall include
16 documentation that the county assisted the nonminor dependent
17 in obtaining his or her reports. The case plan shall include
18 documentation of barriers, if any, to obtaining the credit reports.
19 If the consumer credit report reveals any accounts, the case plan
20 shall detail how the county ensured the youth received assistance
21 with interpreting the credit report and resolving any inaccuracies,
22 including any referrals made for the assistance.

23 (17) For youth 14 years of age or older and nonminor
24 dependents, the case plan shall be developed in consultation with
25 the youth. At the youth's option, the consultation may include up
26 to two members of the case planning team who are chosen by the
27 youth and who are not foster parents of, or caseworkers for, the
28 youth. The agency, at any time, may reject an individual selected
29 by the youth to be a member of the case planning team if the
30 agency has good cause to believe that the individual would not act
31 in the youth's best interest. One individual selected by the youth
32 to be a member of the case planning team may be designated to
33 be the youth's adviser and advocate with respect to the application
34 of the reasonable and prudent parent standard to the youth, as
35 necessary.

36 (18) For youth in foster care 14 years of age and older and
37 nonminor dependents, the case plan shall include both of the
38 following:

39 (A) A document that describes the youth's rights with respect
40 to education, health, visitation, and court participation, the right

1 to be annually provided with copies of his or her credit reports at
2 no cost while in foster care pursuant to Section 10618.6, and the
3 right to stay safe and avoid exploitation.

4 (B) A signed acknowledgment by the youth that he or she has
5 been provided a copy of the document and that the rights described
6 in the document have been explained to the youth in an
7 age-appropriate manner.

8 (19) The case plan for a child or nonminor dependent who is,
9 or who is at risk of becoming, the victim of commercial sexual
10 exploitation, shall document the services provided to address that
11 issue.

12 (h) If the court finds, after considering the case plan, that
13 unsupervised sibling visitation is appropriate and has been
14 consented to, the court shall order that the child or the child's
15 siblings, the child's current caregiver, and the child's prospective
16 adoptive parents, if applicable, be provided with information
17 necessary to accomplish this visitation. This section does not
18 require or prohibit the social worker's facilitation, transportation,
19 or supervision of visits between the child and his or her siblings.

20 (i) The case plan documentation on sibling placements required
21 under this section shall not require modification of existing case
22 plan forms until the Child Welfare Service/Case Management
23 System (CWS/CMS) is implemented on a statewide basis.

24 (j) When a child is 10 years of age or older and has been in
25 out-of-home placement for six months or longer, the case plan
26 shall include an identification of individuals, other than the child's
27 siblings, who are important to the child and actions necessary to
28 maintain the child's relationship with those individuals, provided
29 that those relationships are in the best interest of the child. The
30 social worker or probation officer shall ask every child who is 10
31 years of age or older and who has been in out-of-home placement
32 for six months or longer to identify individuals other than the
33 child's siblings who are important to the child, and may ask any
34 other child to provide that information, or may seek that
35 information from the child and family team, as appropriate. The
36 social worker or probation officer shall make efforts to identify
37 other individuals who are important to the child, consistent with
38 the child's best interests.

1 (k) The child's caregiver shall be provided a copy of a plan
2 outlining the child's needs and services. The nonminor dependent's
3 caregiver shall be provided with a copy of the nonminor's TILP.

4 (l) Each county shall ensure that the total number of visits made
5 by caseworkers on a monthly basis to children in foster care during
6 a federal fiscal year is not less than 95 percent of the total number
7 of those visits that would occur if each child were visited once
8 every month while in care and that the majority of the visits occur
9 in the residence of the child. The county child welfare and
10 probation departments shall comply with data reporting
11 requirements that the department deems necessary to comply with
12 the federal Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006
13 (Public Law 109-288) and the federal Child and Family Services
14 Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-34).

15 ~~(t)~~

16 (m) The implementation and operation of the amendments to
17 subdivision (i) enacted at the 2005–06 Regular Session shall be
18 subject to appropriation through the budget process and by phase,
19 as provided in Section 366.35.

20 SEC. 17. To the extent that this act has an overall effect of
21 increasing the costs already borne by a local agency for programs
22 or levels of service mandated by the 2011 Realignment Legislation
23 within the meaning of Section 36 of Article XIII of the California
24 Constitution, it shall apply to local agencies only to the extent that
25 the state provides annual funding for the cost increase. Any new
26 program or higher level of service provided by a local agency
27 pursuant to this act above the level for which funding has been
28 provided shall not require a subvention of funds by the state nor
29 otherwise be subject to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
30 Constitution.