



# CONNECTIONS Bulletin

## Delayed Permanency Planning Hearings in CONNECTIONS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many courts are adjourning permanency planning hearings (PPH). When a 1089 Permanency Hearing has been delayed due to the pandemic, and the child continues to be in the care and custody of the local department of social services (LDSS), and the court has provided a date the PPH has been adjourned to, the following must be entered in the Activities section of CONNECTIONS:

Date	Date PPH was supposed to have been held:
Type of Legal Event (Modifier A)	21 (1089 Permanency Hearing)
Hearing Disposition (Modifier B)	21 (Adjourned)
Hearing Disposition (Modifier C)	No Entry
Next Hearing Date (Modifier D)	Exact date of new PPH

*\*If the adjournment date is not known, **do not make an entry** in CONNECTIONS. Once the court has communicated the new adjourn date, please make the entry as indicated above.*

**NOTE:** If your district previously made an entry in CONNECTIONS for an adjournment of a PPH due to COVID-19, with a disposition code of 44- CONT FC PERM and EXTENSION in Modifier C, this entry **MUST BE INVALIDATED** in CONNECTIONS and reentered as indicated above.

Similar entries can be made when JD Permanency (Legal Events 15-355.5 JD 12-month Permanency Hearing and legal event 20-355.3 JD Subsequent Permanency/Extension of Placement Hearing) and PINS (Legal Event 08-756-a Court Review) have been adjourned.

Please note that for federal purposes, Title IV-E reimbursement will expire if 12 months have passed without a PPH for a Title IV-E eligible child in LDSS custody. Documentation for ongoing Title IV-E eligibility must include evidence of a judicial determination regarding reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan. If a child's continued Title IV-E eligibility is in jeopardy as a result of a canceled or delayed permanency hearing, please reach out to your LDSS legal department in a timely manner to allow that department to alert the family court for a remedy.

## COVID-19 Guidelines from OCFS

OCFS has released several guideline documents, available via the following links:

- **COVID-19 Guidance for Foster Care and Preventative Staff**  
<https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/news/2020/COVID-2020Mar20-Guidance-for-Foster-Care-and-Preventive-Staff.pdf>
- **COVID-19 Guidance for Child Protective Services Staff**  
<https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/news/2020/COVID-2020Mar15-Guidance-for-CPS.pdf>
- **COVID-19 Guidance on Completing Foster Parent Certification and Annual Reauthorizations**  
<https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/news/2020/COVID-2020Apr10-Guidance-Foster-Parent-Cert-Reauth.pdf>

## The CONNECTIONS Team is Here to Help!

### Resources

- As always, **CONNECTIONS implementation staff** can assist you. A contact list of each district's and agency's assigned implementation specialists can be found on the CONNECTIONS [Intranet](#) and [Internet](#) pages.
- ITS Service Desk—844-891-1786 or [fixit@its.ny.gov](mailto:fixit@its.ny.gov)

### Questions, Comments or Suggestions?

- Email us: [Connections@ocfs.ny.gov](mailto:Connections@ocfs.ny.gov)

**STAY SAFE AND WASH YOUR HANDS!**

