

**PERMANENCY HEARING--REUNIFICATION**

**STATE OF LOUISIANA**  
**IN THE INTEREST OF**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**D/O/B** \_\_\_\_\_

**CASE NO.** \_\_\_\_\_  
**JUVENILE COURT**  
**PARISH OF** \_\_\_\_\_  
**STATE OF LOUISIANA**

**JUDGMENT/ORDER**

- Present were:  ADA \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother \_\_\_\_\_  
 Father \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attorney for Mother \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attorney for Father \_\_\_\_\_  
 Curator for Mother \_\_\_\_\_  
 Curator for Father \_\_\_\_\_  
 Appearance of parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_ waived:  
     Parent(s) cannot be found  
     Parent(s) served but failed to appear  
 OCS \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attorney for Child \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**FINDINGS AND ORDERS:**

**When the decision is to return the child home by a specified date, complete the following five findings:**

The conditions or circumstances leading to the removal of the child have been corrected and it is now safe to return the child home because:

[Note: The finding might describe how the relevant conditions or circumstances have been corrected or the finding might specifically incorporate or modify the Department's explanation why return home is now safe.]

Recent visitation between the child and [name of the parent to whom the child is returning] demonstrates the safety and appropriateness of the child's return home as follows:

[Note: The finding might incorporate or modify the Department's description of recent visitation and its effect on the child or the Department's explanation why recent visitation supports its recommendation that the child be returned home.]

**The Department shall monitor for \_\_\_\_\_ days the safety of the child upon return home and promptly report to the Court any change in circumstances.**

**Reasonable Efforts to Finalize Permanency Plan**

The following efforts were made, following the placement of the child into foster care, to finalize the child's permanency plan:

[Note: The finding might incorporate or modify the Department's description of the state's efforts to reunify the family.]

The efforts were **reasonable** because [insert narrative]

The efforts were **reasonable** based on information at page [insert page #], paragraph [insert paragraph #] in the **Department's case report** dated [insert date], a copy of which is attached to this order and incorporated by reference herein.

The efforts were **not reasonable** because [insert narrative].

If the child is placed in a home in a different state than the home of the child's parents, the placement continues to be appropriate and in the child's best interests for the following reasons:

[Note: If the child is placed in the same state as one or both of the child's parents, leave this space blank. Otherwise, explain why it is necessary to place the child in a different state. The finding might incorporate or modify the Department's explanation. Federal law requires the court to make findings regarding the continuing necessity for out-of-state foster placements. 42 U.S.C. §675(5)(C).]

If the child is 16 or older, the child needs the following services to make the transition from foster care to independent living:

[Note: If the child is less than 16, leave this space blank. If the child is 16 or older, list and explain the services the child needs to make the transition from foster care to independent living. The finding might specify the services or might incorporate or modify the Department's statement about such services. Federal law requires the court to make findings concerning the services needed to prepare the child for independent living. 42 U.S.C. §675(5)(C).]

**When the decision is to extend the child's stay in foster care for a specified time with a goal of family reunification, complete the following seven findings:**

The parents have made substantial progress in correcting any conditions causing the separation of the family in that:

[Note: The finding might describe how the parent has progressed or the finding might very specifically incorporate or modify the Department's description of the parent(s)' progress.]

Safe return of the child to parents is highly likely in the next \_\_\_\_ months because:

[Note: The finding might incorporate or modify the Department's explanation of why it is highly likely that the child can safely be returned home in a short time.]

The parent(s) and child have a strong and positive emotional relationship, which is well worth preserving because:

[Note: The finding might incorporate or modify the Department's description of the parent-child relationship.]

It is too early to set a specific date for the child's return home because:

[Note: The finding might incorporate or modify the Department's explanation why it is too early to set a specific date for the child's return home, yet it is highly likely that the child can safely return within a short time.]

**Reasonable Efforts to Finalize Permanency Plan**

The following efforts were made, following the placement of the child into foster care, to finalize the child's permanency plan:

[Note: The finding might incorporate or modify the Department's description of the state's efforts to reunify the family.]

The efforts were **reasonable** because [insert narrative]

The efforts were **reasonable** based on information at page [insert page #], paragraph [insert paragraph #] in the **Department's case report** dated [insert date], a copy of which is attached to this order and incorporated by reference herein.

The efforts were **not reasonable** because [insert narrative].

If the child is placed in a home in a different state than the home of the child's parents, the placement continues to be appropriate and in the child's best interest for the following reasons:

[Note: If the child is placed in the same state as one or both of the child's parents, leave this space blank. Otherwise, explain why it is necessary to place the child in a different state. The finding might incorporate or modify the Department's explanation. Federal law requires the court to make findings regarding the continuing necessity for out-of-state foster placements. 42 U.S.C. §675(5)(C).]

If the child is 16 or older, the child needs the following services to make the transition from foster care to independent living:

[Note: If the child is less than 16, leave this space blank. If the child is 16 or older, list and explain the services the child needs to transition from foster care to independent living. The finding might incorporate or modify the Department's statement about such services. Federal law requires the court to make findings concerning the services needed to prepare the child for independent living. 42 U.S.C. §675(5)(C).]

THE COURT HEREBY ORDERS:

The child shall be returned to [name of the parent to whom the child is to be returned] (no later than) \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

OR

The child shall continue in foster care in the [custody] of the Department for \_\_\_\_ months.

The Department shall implement the following plan to ensure the safe and nondisruptive return of the child to [name of the parent to whom the child is to be returned.]

[Note: The court-approved plan might incorporate or modify the Department's proposed plan. It might order specific services to ensure the child's safe return.]

The next hearing in this case shall be a [review] hearing and shall take place at \_\_\_[a.m.] [p.m.] on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_, Courtroom\_\_\_\_\_.

**Present placement/level of care to be maintained except upon authorization of/notice to the court.**

The court further orders that:

[Note: This allows the court to enter any additional necessary instructions or orders. If none, leave this space blank.]

DATED and signed at Harvey, LA this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
J U D G E

