

Child Dependency Courts

Infants and young children thrive on routine, familiarity, and predictability. This makes them particularly vulnerable to the effects of stress and instability that accompany forced removal by child welfare. Thoughtful transition planning helps ensure that these transitions are as smooth as possible, reducing the risk of developmental and relational disruptions.




Transition Planning

→ Prioritizes the continuity of relationships, helping infants maintain or build strong bonds with all caregivers.

→ Ensures that physical, emotional, and cognitive needs are met during transitions and overall child well-being is supported.

→ Supports the infant's relationship with their biological family, while preparing kinship or foster caregivers to meet the infant's needs.

→ Mitigates the short-term and long-term harmful impacts of removal and continued family separation.



By ensuring that infants' early experiences are as positive and stable as possible, transition planning helps lay the foundation for healthier development.

Transition Toolkit *for infants and toddlers*

Designed for infants and toddlers in out-of-home placements, the [CHERISH Transition Toolkit](#) supports healthy transitions between caregivers. It provides best practice transition planning tips and strategies for social workers, parents, and caregivers who are preparing for a child's move."

[View Toolkit >](#)

Other Resources

[Foster Care Placement Moves](#)

[Why Take the Time for a Planful Move Home](#)

