

Rule 1601. PERMANENCY HEARING NOTICE

A. At least fifteen days prior to the hearing, the court or its designee shall give notice of the permanency hearing to:

- 1) all parties;
- 2) the attorney for the county agency;
- 3) the child's attorney
- 4) the guardian's attorney;
- 5) the parents, child's foster parent, preadoptive parent, or relative providing care for the child;
- 6) the court appointed special advocate, if assigned;
- 7) the educational decision maker, if applicable; and
- 8) any other persons as directed by the court.

B. **If a party intends to request a goal change from reunification, then either the notice shall state this purpose or the party shall give separate notice of the intended goal change in accordance with paragraph (A).**

Comment

Given the significance of discontinuing the goal of reunification, the requirement of paragraph (B) is to ensure that parties, counsel, and interested persons have notice of the purpose of the hearing and are able to prepare for and attend the hearing.

Official Note: Rule 1601 adopted August 21, 2006, effective February 1, 2007. Amended April 29, 2011, effective July 1, 2011. **Amended _____, 2017, effective _____, 2017.**

Committee Explanatory Reports:

Final Report explaining the provisions of Rule 1601 published with the Court's Order at 36 Pa.B. 5571 (September 2, 2006). Final Report explaining the amendments to Rule 1601 published with the Court's Order at 41 Pa.B. 2413 (May 14, 2011). **Final**

Report explaining the amendments to Rule 1601 published with the Court's Order at Pa.B. (_____, 2017).

RULE 1608. PERMANENCY HEARING

D. Court's [f]Finding.

- 1) **Findings at all [s]Six-[m]Month [h]Hearings.** At each permanency hearing, the court shall enter its findings and conclusions of law into the record and enter an order pursuant to Rule 1609. On the record in open court, the court shall state:

- c) the appropriateness and feasibility of the current placement goal for the child provided that at no time may a goal be changed from reunification unless notice has been provided in accordance with Rule 1601(B);

Comment

Every child should have a concurrent plan, which is a secondary plan to be pursued if the primary permanency plan for the child cannot be achieved. See *Comment* to Rule 1512. For example, the primary plan may be reunification with the guardian. If the guardian does not substantially comply with the requirements of the court-ordered services, subsidized legal guardianship may be utilized as the concurrent plan. Because of time requirements, the concurrent plan is to be in place so that permanency may be achieved in a timely manner.

Paragraph (D)(1)(c) is intended to provide adequate notice and the opportunity to be heard when a goal is being changed from reunification. If the court intends to change the child's goal from reunification without a prior notice provided by a party pursuant to Rule 1601(B), then the court shall direct the county agency to provide such notice in accordance with Rule 1601(B).

Official Note: Rule 1608 adopted August 21, 2006, effective February 1, 2007. Amended December 18, 2009, effective immediately. Amended April 21, 2011,

effective July 1, 2011. Amended April 29, 2011, effective July 1, 2011. Amended October 21, 2013, effective December 1, 2013. Amended July 13, 2015, effective October 1, 2015. Amended December 9, 2015, effective January 1, 2016. Amended June 14, 2016, effective August 1, 2016. **Amended _____, 2017, effective _____, 2017.**

Committee Explanatory Reports:

Final Report explaining the provisions of Rule 1608 published with the Court's Order at 36 Pa.B. 5571 (September 2, 2006). Final Report explaining the amendments to Rule 1608 published with the Court's Order at 40 Pa.B. 21 (January 2, 2010). Final Report explaining the amendments to Rule 1608 published with the Court's Order at 41 Pa.B. 2319 (May 7, 2011). Final Report explaining the amendments to Rule 1608 published with the Court's Order a 41 Pa.B. 2430 (May 14, 2011). Final Report explaining the amendments to Rule 1608 published with the Court's Order at 43 Pa.B. 6658 (November 9, 2013). Final Report explaining the amendments to Rule 1608 published with the Court's Order at 45 Pa.B. 3987 (July 25, 2015). Final Report explaining the amendments to Rule 1608 published with the Court's Order at 45 Pa.B. 7289 (December 26, 2015). Final Report explaining the amendments to Rule 1608 published with the Court's Order at **46 Pa.B. 3415 (July 2, 2016).** **Final Report explaining the amendments to Rule 1608 published with the Court's Order at Pa.B. ____ (____, 2017).**