 Department of Children & Family Services <i>Building a Stronger Louisiana</i>	Division/Section	Child Welfare
	Chapter No./Name	6 – Foster Care (FC)
	Part No./Name	8 – Case Planning for the Foster Child
	Section No./Name	Case Planning for the Foster Child
	Document No./Name	6-808 Disposition
	Effective Date	September 1, 2021

I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

The purpose of the disposition is for the court to make decisions concerning plans for a child who has been adjudicated to be in Need of Care.


II. PROCEDURES

A. DISPOSITION HEARING

The disposition may be held immediately after the adjudication, but shall be conducted within 30 days of the adjudication. The Foster Care case worker is responsible for providing the court with a report, * including the Family Connections Form at least 10 days prior to the disposition in accordance with Ch. C. Art. 668. In jurisdictions where the Adjudication and Disposition Hearings are held simultaneously, the case worker shall submit the Family Connections Form within 10 days of the Adjudication Hearing. ** The FC case worker is responsible for attending the disposition hearing and providing the court with a copy of the initial case plan. The court disposition status is tracked in TIPS on the 103 screen, and the Foster Care case worker is responsible for ensuring the disposition date and type are entered into TIPS. Refer to Chapter 20, TIPS Procedural Manual.

In accordance with Ch. C. Art. 682-684, the court shall:

- enter a written order approving the case plan or specific reasons why it finds the plan does not protect the health and safety of the child or is otherwise not in the best interest of the child;
- determine whether reasonable efforts have been made to prevent removal and to reunify parent and child or to finalize the child's placement in an alternative home in accordance with the child's plan. The child's health and safety shall be the paramount concern in the choice of the dispositional alternative;
- impose the least restrictive disposition of the alternatives within the law;
- place the child in the custody of a relative unless the court has made a specific finding that such a care setting is not in the best interest of the child. The court shall give specific written reason for its findings;
- inform the parent about the case review and permanency review procedure and that it is the parent's obligation to cooperate with the department, comply with the requirements of the case plan, including their duty to keep the department apprised of their current address, and to correct the conditions requiring the child to be in care; and
- inform the parents that a termination of parental rights petition may be filed based on their failure to comply with the case plan, their failure to correct the conditions requiring

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the child to be in care or on any other ground authorized by the termination of parental rights statutes. This information is provided to the parents again at the case review hearings.

If the court determines that reunification efforts are not required at the Disposition Hearing, a permanency hearing shall be conducted within 30 days after the determination. Refer to [6-835](#), Judicial Hearings for Case Review, Permanency, and Restoration of Parental Rights.

B. MODIFICATION OF DISPOSITION

The court may modify a previous disposition judgment on a motion filed by the District Attorney, the Department, the child, or his parents. A hearing must be held to review the child’s condition and circumstances and to determine if jurisdiction should be maintained or order other modifications in the care, care setting, and supervision of the child.

III. FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

* CW Family Connections [Form](#) / [Instructions](#)
 CW Foster Care Court Report [Form](#) / [Instructions](#) **

IV. REFERENCES

LA Ch. C. Art. 668
 LA Ch. C. Art. 682-684