

**Department of Children's Services**  
**INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF FORM**  
**CS-0797**  
**Affidavit of Reasonable Efforts**

This affidavit should be used when a child first comes into care or is at risk of entering care. It describes to the court the efforts DCS made to prevent the removal of a child. It may also be used during reviews to describe the support the department has provided to help reunify the family.

Once a permanency plan has been developed and approved, staff may wish to use form [CS-0798](#), titled simply, **Affidavit**.

Please be mindful that some courts also require a quarterly progress report, [CS-0430](#) for the review of permanency plan progress, so check with your regional counsel to determine the forms preferred by your local courts.

Note: According to TCA 37-1-166, an affidavit is to be filed with the court when the custody of a child is at issue; however this is not required when a child comes to the court's attention to answer to a delinquent charge.