

Child and Family Services Review Frequently Asked Questions

<https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/osri-faq/round-4-faqs>

Item #	Date Asked	Date Answered	Question	Response
General	9/23/2022	10/5/2022	A child reached permanency through Permanent Guardianship with a relative and the case has been closed. The court reopens the case based on a petition to reinstate supervision filed by Permanent Guardian for the purposes of pursuing Adoption. The child remains in the care and custody of the Permanent Guardian. In this scenario, is the case reviewed as an in-home or foster care case?	With the limited information provide, it would In-home based on the FAQ- General Question- Discharge from foster care dated 12/15/2014
General	9/23/2022	10/5/2022	Upon TPR, the child is placed in the care and custody of the agency for the purposes of Adoptive placement. Would the child be considered in-home or in foster care upon TPR?	Foster care
General	9/23/2022	10/5/2022	We have encountered situations where a child reached permanency through Permanent Guardianship and the court grants a petition of the mother or father to reopen the case. The court grants the motion, the case is reopened, and a goal of Reunification is established. The child remains in the care of the Permanent Guardian upon reopening of the case. In this scenario, is the case reviewed as an in-home or foster care case?	In-home as the child is not in foster care
General	9/23/2022	10/5/2022	A child reached Permanency through achievement of the goal of Permanent Guardianship, and the case was closed. The case is reopened due to concerns related to the Permanent Guardian's ability to provide care and supervision to the child. In this scenario, would the child be considered in-home or in Foster Care?	With the limited information provided, it would depend on if the child remained in the home or was placed in another resource. If the child remained in the home with the permanent guardians and services were provided this would be an in-home case.
General	9/23/2022	10/5/2022	In situations where there is both a putative and a legal father (i.e. – name on birth certificate or married to the mother at time of child's birth, etc.), which is considered the father for purposes of CFSR? Is the state's definition of father considered when determining the applicable father(s)? For CFSR purposes, is the legal and/or putative father's relationship with the child at case initiation considered in addition to legal status?	It is not based on the state's definition of the father, refer to the instrument's definition of fathers. It depends on case circumstances and relationships, see FAQ General Question- Relationship- dated 3/24/2015
8 and 11	9/23/2022	10/5/2022	Does relationship need to include regular and routine caregiving of the child prior to the child's entry into care?	No
8 and 11	9/23/2022	10/5/2022	Is a divorced/separated parent who was allowed visitation prior to the child entering care for some defined limited amount of time (not overnight) considered to have a relationship?	Yes
8 and 11	9/23/2022	10/5/2022	If an absent parent has infrequent contact with a child prior to the child entering care, is that considered a relationship?	The reviewer would need to consider the frequency and quality of contact, as well as the child's perception of the parent and their relationship, in order to determine if this parent had a relationship with the child that makes them applicable for the items of 8 and 11. See FAQ for those items- Relationship Meaningful Connection dated 4/7/2015.

Face Sheet	11/9/2022	11/15/2022	Face Sheet Question J Definition states that a case is considered “open for services” when the case was opened for case management and/or service provision. When we have entered the date the case was transferred to case management following a removal, an error message is given, and OMS will not allow a date beyond the date of shelter to be entered. In this circumstance, are we to enter the date of shelter in J as the date the service provision began?	States should use the same date of case opening for foster care cases as they did in prior rounds (date the report came into the hotline)
15	11/9/2022	11/15/2022	We understand a parent residing out of state during the entire period under review may be considered a substantial justification for less than monthly face-to-face visits if the agency has made efforts to maintain monthly communication with the parent via phone calls, video calls, and/or letters. We understand from the special considerations instructions that A2 can be rated “Yes”; however, based on the definition of a visit, would “Never” be checked in A1 or would the frequency be based on the frequency of alternative forms of contact? Should reviewers rate the quality of the alternative forms of visit/contact in 15C and 15D or are these questions not applicable because face-to-face contact did not occur?	The question is answered on actual face to face visits only. So, if less than monthly visits occurred, the reviewer would answer less than monthly. Then, they could answer YES to the sufficient frequent question, but would need to provide substantial justification (i.e. circumstances, efforts, etc.) in the rational statement.