



4435 West Pine Blvd • St. Louis, MO 63108 • 314-531-3183 • 314-531-3164 fax

## Community Family Services (CFS) - Accelerated Permanency Support (APS)

During fiscal year 2024 there were roughly 2422 kids in care between St. Louis City, St. Louis County and Jefferson County; of those kids 330 had a goal of guardianship and 404 had a goal of adoption. In addition, almost 45% of the 2422 children have been in care for over 2 years. (Missouri Department of Social Services, Children's Division's Children's Services Management Report June 2024)

After the permanency plan for a child(ren) in foster care changes to Guardianship or Adoption, a different permanent track begins for the child(ren). This track requires specific forms, contracts and profiles be completed in a particular order in coordination with a permanency attorney. This paperwork can be time consuming for all involved and confusing for the perspective guardian or pre-adoptive family. Our Little Haven's Community Family Services is offering Accelerated Permanency Support services to case managers. CFS staff work with the permanency placement providers, case managers and the assigned permanency attorney to expedite the paperwork process and get the team in the best position to get a date on the docket for guardianship or adoption.

APS services are currently offered to foster care case managers in St. Louis County, St. Louis City and Jefferson County.

### Available APS Services

- Coordinating the case manager and team efforts.
- Obtaining case status, contact information and consents.
- Meeting with proposed guardian or adoptive resource, explaining the proposed permanency plan, and answering questions.
- Assist with attorney selection process and potential legal conflicts.
- Gathering information to assist with the guardianship or adoptive petition.
- Search for and supply last known addresses for service of process purposes.
- Assist with completing child profile and other subsidy paperwork for Guardianship or Adoption.
- Assist the guardian ad litem regarding consents from youth 14 years old or over.
- Coordinate with the assigned attorney regarding filing legal documents with the court.
- Supply referrals for post-permanency support for child and family.

(CFS staff cannot negotiate the contract with the proposed guardian or adoptive resource. CFS staff does not provide legal services or legal advice.)

### Criteria for APS:

- Children/youth in the legal custody of Children's Division
- Children/youth under the age of 18yrs
- The child(ren) must have a court ordered case plan of Guardianship or Adoption (TPR must be granted).

*The availability of APS services is subject to additional criteria and OLH's review on a case by case basis.*

## How to Refer:

Complete a referral form and send securely to:

Fax: **314.531.3164** Attn: **APS** or [cfsreferrals@ourlittlehaven.org](mailto:cfsreferrals@ourlittlehaven.org)