

# Legal Assistance Referrals

## Background Notes

In a small number of cases the child cannot be reunited with their parent. The plan of adoption is frequently the next choice in regard to permanency. To achieve adoption the parent must either relinquish their parental rights or the state must terminate the rights of the parents. These legal cases are managed by the Department of Justice and require a referral called a Legal Assistance Referral or LAR. Because of the serious nature of this work, a detailed account of the work completed with the parent is required. This is done through a document called a Legal Assistance Referral. This document is summary of the case and is exhaustive. As children need permanency for their well being completing the referral is expected to be timely as well as thorough.

### Tasks / Assignments:

- Ask your Supervisor for a completed Legal Assistance Referral (LAR) to review. After reading the referral talk to the child's worker about the approach they took in completing the referral.
- Read the rule regarding Initiating Adoption Planning located here:  
[http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual\\_1/division\\_70.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual_1/division_70.pdf)
- Ask your Supervisor to provide you the forms required to complete the LAR. Review the forms located in a current case file and

### Discoveries:

- *How much time did the worker need to complete the Legal Assistance Referral?*
- *Where did the worker obtain the information needed?*
- *What was the hardest part to complete?*
- *How much time is the worker given to complete the LAR?*