

237.20 Local board duties.

A local board shall, except in delinquency cases, do the following:

1. Review at least every six months the case of each child receiving foster care assigned to the local board by the state board to determine whether satisfactory progress is being made toward the goals of the case permanency plan pursuant to section 237.22. As much as is possible, review shall be conducted immediately prior to court reviews of the case.

During each review, the agency responsible for the placement of or services provided to the child shall attend the review and the local board shall review all of the following:

a. The past, current, and future status of the child and placement as shown through the case permanency plan and case progress reports submitted by the agency responsible for the placement of the child and other information the board may require.

b. The efforts of the agency responsible for the placement of the child to locate and provide services to the biological or adoptive parents of the child.

c. The efforts of the agency responsible for the placement of the child to facilitate the return of the child to the home or to find an alternative permanent placement other than foster care if reunion with the parent or previous custodian is not feasible. The agency shall report to the board all factors which either favor or mitigate against a decision or alternative with regard to these matters.

d. Any problems, solutions, or alternatives which may be capable of investigation, or other matters with regard to the child which the agency responsible for the placement of the child or the board feels should be investigated with regard to the best interests of the state or of the child.

e. The compliance of the interested parties with the decision-making rights and responsibilities contained in the family foster care or preadoptive care agreement applicable to a child.

The review shall include issues pertaining to the case permanency plan and shall not include issues that do not pertain to the case permanency plan. A person notified pursuant to subsection 4 shall either attend the review or submit testimony as requested by the local board or in accordance with a written protocol jointly developed by the state board and the department. Oral testimony may, upon the request of the testifier or upon motion of the local board, be given in a private setting when to do so would facilitate the presentation of evidence. Local board questions shall pertain to the permanency plan and shall not include issues that do not pertain to the permanency plan.

A person who gives oral testimony has the right to representation by counsel at the review.

An agency or individual providing services to the child shall submit testimony as requested by the board. The testimony may be written or oral, or may be a tape recorded telephone call. Written testimony from other interested parties may also be considered by the board in its review.

2. *a.* Submit to the appropriate court within fifteen days after the review under subsection 1, the findings and recommendations of the review. The local board shall ensure that the most recent report is available for a court hearing. The report to the court shall include information regarding the case permanency plan and the progress in attaining the permanency goals. The report shall not include issues that do not pertain to the case permanency plan. The findings and recommendations shall include the proposed date of the next review by the local board. The local board shall notify the persons specified in subsection 4 of the findings and recommendations.

b. If the person or agency responsible for services provided to the child disagrees with the review findings or recommendations, the person or agency shall respond during the review or submit a statement to the local board and the court within ten working days of receiving the local board's report. The response shall explain the reasons the person or agency disagrees with the board's findings or does not plan to implement the board's recommendations.

3. Encourage placement of the child in the most appropriate setting reflecting the provisions of chapter 232.

4. Notify the following persons at least ten days before the review of a case of a child receiving foster care:

a. The person, court, or agency responsible for the child.

b. The parent or parents of the child unless termination of parental rights has occurred pursuant to section 232.117.

c. The foster care provider of the child.

d. The child receiving foster care if the child is fourteen years of age or older. The child shall be informed of the review's purpose and procedure, and of the right to have a guardian ad litem present.

e. The guardian ad litem of the foster child. An attorney appointed as guardian ad litem shall be eligible for compensation under section 232.141, subsection 2.

f. The department.

g. The county attorney.

h. The person providing services to the child or the child's family.

The notice shall include a statement that the person notified has the right to representation by counsel at the review.

84 Acts, ch 1279, § 31; 88 Acts, ch 1233, § 1015; 89 Acts, ch 64, § 13; 92 Acts, ch 1141, § 912; 97 Acts, ch 164, § 7; 99 Acts, ch 135, §22; 2003 Acts, ch 151, §8