

List: Case planning timeframes

Statutory Time frames:

Children and Young Persons (Care and Protections) Act 1998

- Statutory OOHC is care provided for periods greater than 14 days (section [135A](#))
- A case plan is required for children with an interim order 'within 4 months after the interim order is made' (section [150\(2\)\(a\)](#))
- A case plan is required for children with a final order, under 2 years of age 'within 2 months after the final order is made and thereafter within every period of 12 months after the final order is made' (section [150\(2\)\(b\)](#))
- A case plan is required for children with a final order, 2 years of age and over 'within 4 months after the final order is made and thereafter within every period of 12 months after the final order is made' (section [150\(2\)\(b\)](#))
- A case plan review is required immediately after death of a parent, carer or unplanned change in placement (section [150\(2\)\(c\)&\(d\)](#))
- A case plan review is required for children in temporary care arrangements without a court order (supported OOHC), exceeding 3 months in any period of 12 months, 'at least once in every period of 12 months' (section [155\(1\)](#)).
- A case plan review is required for children supported OOHC arrangements (with or without a court order) (section [155\(4\)](#)):
 - within 21 days after the death of the authorised carer
 - before a planned change of placement and
 - within 21 days after an unplanned change of placement.
- A case plan review is required for children being restored at the end of the time set out in the plan in which restoration is to be actively pursued. Or if not, reviewed at that point, within 12 months after the last occasion the care plan was considered by the Children's Court (section [85A\(1\)&\(2\)](#))
- A case plan may allow a child to live at home with their parent/s up to 6 months before the date on which the child is to be restored under the permanency plan for restoration approved by the court (section [136\(3\)](#)).

Mandated Timeframes :

NSW Child Safe Standards for Permanent Care November 2015

- A case plan review is required whenever there is a 'significant change in the placement or in the child or young person's circumstances' ([Standard 14](#))
- Regular, formal review of child's case plan required at least annually ([Standard 14](#))
- Leaving care case plan required for children 15 years of age and over ([Standard 14](#)).

FACS Casework Practice Mandate:

FACS caseworkers always refer directly to Casework Practice Mandates available through the FACS casework practice intranet.

- Safety assessment recorded within 2 days of assessment taking place (field visit).
- A review safety assessment or closure safety assessment is recorded within 2 days of the assessment taking place (field visit).
- A safety plan should remain in place for no more than 72 hours without being reviewed.
- A risk assessment is recorded within 30 days of the safety assessment being completed.
- An initial case plan is prepared:
 - within 15 days of the safety assessment and risk assessment being completed
 - within 45 days of it being assessed the child is in need of care and protection.
- A risk reassessment is required 90 days after completion of the initial case plan and every 90 days after that.
- A review of the initial case plan is required every 90 days as informed by the risk re-assessment.
- A case plan is required within 30 days of a child entering statutory OOHC, including interim orders.
- A case plan review is required:
 - upon completion of guardianship assessment
 - after an application for a guardianship order has been filed
 - when the care plan has been filed.

Permanency Support Program (PSP) Funding Model

- Case plan review is required 3 monthly for children with a case plan goal of preservation
- Case plan review is required 6 monthly for children with a case plan goal of restoration, guardianship or adoption
- Case plan review is required 12 monthly for children with a case plan goal of long term care.