

Reauthorization of Families Protocol

Once a family has received a maximum of two units of case advocacy or one unit of respite, the family will need to call the SWAN Helpline directly to initiate the reauthorization process to determine eligibility for additional SWAN Post-Permanency services. If a family meets one or more of the criteria below, they can be reauthorized for case assessment which could result in referrals for the Post-Permanency Units of Service, including case advocacy, respite, and support group

Change in family/household composition – Any change in family composition has the potential to upset the balance in a household, including, but not limited to:

- adoption of another child
- birth of a child
- addition of a new family member other than child
- marriage
- divorce
- death of immediate family member
- catastrophic illness of immediate family member (physical or emotional)

Previous assessment outcome was “no services requested or recommended” - Families for whom an assessment was previously completed but for whom no services were recommended or those families who did not participate in services that were recommended through a previous assessment.

Significant behavioral changes not previously present or identified - If a child is exhibiting significant behavioral issues or emotional problems that are impacting the family, the family may benefit from an additional assessment and other supportive services. Keep in mind that SWAN Post-Permanency services are not crisis driven and are not intended to be used for crisis intervention. In crisis situations, the family should be directed to contact their local crisis intervention.

Significant adjustment issues when a child returns from an out-of-home placement – Children may benefit from additional services when they return from an out of home placement such as a residential or congregate care facility through child welfare, the juvenile justice system or the mental health or intellectual disability system.

Family has moved to a different service area in the state and their supports are no longer available - This may occur when a family relocates to a region of the state where the service providers are significantly different.

A SWAN Post-Permanency Assessment is required for any family requesting additional services through the reauthorization process. Once the Assessment has been completed, the family is eligible to receive additional SWAN Post-permanency Services including Case Advocacy, Support Groups and Respite as determined by a thorough Assessment. The additional Case Advocacy Services should be used to help the family find and connect with community service providers who will be able to assist the family once the SWAN Post-Permanency services have terminated so that should the family need additional support, they know how to access those services, including support groups and respite within their community. And, while it is not necessary for an assessment to be completed when a family initially calls for Support Groups, an additional referral for support group must be made through the assessment that is completed as part of this reauthorization process.

If the family experiences a different significant change after an initial reauthorization has occurred and services have been rendered, they can call the SWAN Helpline to be evaluated for another reauthorization.

Available funding for services is always a condition of determining reauthorization through SWAN and priority will be given to those families who have not received the services in the past.