

# Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) Current as of February 2014

Terms in blue ink are defined in Glossary

## CYF 016 – Case Closure

A top priority at Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS), Office of Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) is to keep families together as long as the child/ren's safety can be assured. The majority of children who become active with CYF remain at home with their families.

CYF uses a team approach with family members to plan for and select an individually tailored array of services. Family members are encouraged to invite extended family members or other support persons to help determine and plan for what is needed to keep the child/ren safe.

Once a family's situation is stabilized, the family is referred to community-based services as needed before CYF closes the case. Generally, cases meeting one or more of the following criteria are closed.

- Child Protective Service or General Protective Service Referrals were not accepted for service  
*Allegations may be unfounded, the family is not in need of services to address concerns of abuse or neglect, or the family does not want services and child/ren are not believed to be at significant risk of harm.*
- Parent/child conflict (only) cases. *Parent/child conflict referrals requesting placement may consist of voluntary agreements, and are closed or go before a Juvenile Court Judge within 30 days.*
- Cases that have been open without significant risk for 90 days. *Before closing the CYF case, hearings are scheduled to close dependency-related Juvenile court cases.*
- All children live in a safe, legally-permanent living situation. *This can mean living at home with parent/s, adopted, placed with a relative or non-relative custodian, or residing in another living situation approved by the court.*
- The family has moved out of Allegheny County. *Outstanding risk and safety concerns and dependency-related matters are referred and/or transferred to the new Child Protective Service and Juvenile Court jurisdiction.*
- Children have reached the age of 18 years, do not otherwise meet the definition of 'child' (*youths can sometimes meet the definition of 'child' up to age 21*), and do not wish to continue agency involvement and Court supervision.
- All children have turned 21 years of age.