

## Reasonable Efforts Scenario Round 3

After spending over four years in foster care and having at least ten placements during that time, the case worker finally was able to get in contact with a distant relative in another state that tentatively expressed an interest in being a permanent placement for Johnny. DHS had terminated Johnny's parent's rights two years earlier and had high hopes that he would be adopted soon thereafter. Johnny was only 10 years old and did not have any behavior or mental health problems. He was a good student and always well-behaved in his foster homes. The placement moves were never a result of Johnny's behavior. However, DHS was not able to find an adoptive family for Johnny despite its efforts. Some of those efforts included: participation in adoption events, such as social events with children who were free for adoption and prospective adoptive parents, participation in the local TV station's adoption segment in which Johnny was featured as available for adoption, and participation in Wendy's Wonderful Kids adoption recruitment program.

Johnny really wanted to go live with his Uncle in another state, which he told the case worker every chance he got after the termination was final. He also told his GAL. His GAL pressed the case worker and supervisor to try to find the Uncle because he knew that DHS had family finding resources, but he's not sure that the case worker has followed through even though she says that she has.

One day, the GAL received an unexpected call from Johnny's Uncle who had questions about why it was taking so long for Johnny to be able to come live with him. When the GAL gathered more information, this is what he learned:

Tom, Johnny's Uncle, was contacted about 6 months ago by the caseworker who asked him if he would consider being a permanent placement for Johnny. When Tom asked what that meant he was told it meant that Tom would adopt Johnny. Tom said he needed to think about it and talk to his wife and other kids before committing. Tom left several messages for the case worker before she called him back. Tom admits that he didn't call her until 3 months after the initial conversation. When they spoke, the case manager explained that he and his household would have to go through a home study process and that they would also have to go through the ICPC process, which could take a while. He got the impression that it wasn't anything that would happen quickly, so he admits that he didn't take the initiative either, but now he is wondering what is going on, because he has not received any further contact or information.

The GAL is considering asking the Court to make a no reasonable efforts toward timely permanency finding at the upcoming permanency hearing.