

Alternatives to TPR

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What are the alternatives?

- Voluntary
- Stipulate to the Grounds
- Hold Open
- Court Trial
- Jury Trial
- Alternative Disposition
 - Guardianship
 - Kinship
 - Child specific Foster Care

Voluntary

- When a parent voluntarily gives up their Parental rights.
- Avoids the trial process
- Protects Parental Rights of future children
- Does have to go to court and state for the record that they are knowingly and willingly Terminating their Parental Rights.

Stipulate to the Grounds

- Also called a Consent Decree
- Avoids the Grounds phase of the TPR process
- Advance to Disposition (Best Interest of the Child)

Hold Open

- Usually 60 days or 90 days
- Buys the Client more time to work on their conditions

Court Trial

- Judge decides if there are grounds
- No Jury

Jury Trial

- Jury decides if there are grounds

Guardianship

- Can avoid TPR
- Can provide permanency
- Usually a family member

Kinship

- Can provide permanency
- Has to be a family member
- Provides financial support

Child Specific Foster Care

- Usually a friend of the family
- Allows for financial support

Client's Goals

- Wants her son returned to her care but doesn't want a jury trial because she doesn't want everyone to "know her business"
- she would like placement with her grandmother
- An opportunity to meet the foster parents and would like to know if the foster parents will allow visitation after TPR.