Placement
Primary Resources

Title, Date & Author	Brief Synopsis	Additional Notes
Barth, R.P. (2002). *Institutions vs. foster homes: The empirical base for the second century of debate.* Chapel Hill, NC: UNC, School of Social Work, Jordan Institute for Families.	This is a report on institutional care. It concludes that there is no evidence to indicate that group care enhances any of the goals of child welfare services--it is not safer or better at promoting development; it is no more stable and does not achieve better long-term outcomes. Group home care should only be used for children who have the most serious forms of mental illness and self-destructive behavior.	There are many graphs and charts that could assist a judge in decision-making. There is also a section on alternatives to group care that is useful.
Sigrid, J. (2004). Why do foster care placements disrupt? An investigation of reasons for placement change in foster care. *Social Service Review*, 601-627.	This is a study that examines the reasons for placement change. This study determined that 20% of changes are behavior related. It also found that older age, externalizing behaviors and emotional abuse increase the danger of behavior related changes. The risk is highest during the first 100 days after entry into care.	While most of the article is very technical and discusses the methodology of the study, which will most likely not relate to judges, the discussion portion which begins on page 620 is very useful. The discussion suggests things like increased support for foster families (including financial support) and better screening and training of foster parents will help in the disruption of placement. While the article is 22 pages, the discussion section is only 4 1/2 pages.

Pecora, P., Kessler, R., Downs, A. C., English, D., White, J., & Heeringa, S. (2007). *Why should the child welfare field focus on minimizing placement change as part of permanency planning for children?* Retrieved from: http://www.casey.org/resources/publications/MinimizingPlacements.htm.	This article outlines a collaborative study of foster youth placement disruption. The document highlights five reasons why a focus on minimizing placement disruption is vital including minimizing pain/trauma, minimizing attachment, behavior, mental health issues, increasing school stability/success, maximizing services, and increasing the likelihood that a child will establish enduring positive relationships with caring adults.	