

**ABA Center on Children and the Law
Summary of Permanency Barriers Project
1989-2007**

From 1989 - 2004, the ABA Center on Children and the Law conducted the Termination Barriers Project in 20 small, medium and large counties throughout New York State. The overall savings in New York was the reduction of approximately **15 months of time in foster care** and a **savings of over \$15 million foster care dollars**. As a result of these efforts, the ABA was awarded an Adoption Excellence Award in 2005 by the Department of Health and Human Services. The project is currently in Pennsylvania, Wyoming and Kentucky.

In 2003, Pennsylvania contracted with the ABA to conduct the Pennsylvania Permanency Barriers Project based on the highly successful New York model. This project undertakes five major tasks in the counties:

1. Identifying and analyzing the cause of delays;
2. Interactively developing recommendations and implementing reforms;
3. Establishing written protocols, procedures and providing multidisciplinary training;
4. Monitoring reforms and changes; and
5. Sharing project results throughout the state.

Common problems identified have included: missing or unidentified parents; relatives entering case late; increase in adolescent population; lack of training on permanency planning issues and delays in court procedures.

The Permanency Barriers Project has focused on reforms such as: the early identification of children's needs; refining court procedures in permanency planning areas; training the child welfare agency and legal staff and sharing information with other counties and states.

Currently the project is running in ten Pennsylvania counties. The ABA has successfully completed its work in seven Pennsylvania counties with the following results:

County	Average Time Saved	Money Saved
Luzerne	22 months	\$660,000
Cumberland	7 months	\$621,600
Northumberland	5 months	\$240,000
Berks	5 months	\$420,000
Mifflin	5 months	\$222,000
Lancaster	7 months	\$386,400
Huntingdon	5 months	\$234,000
Totals	8 months avg.	\$2,784,000

We look forward to continuing our work in helping children in foster care achieve permanency at the earliest age and stage in life as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact:
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