



**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES
CHILD WELFARE POLICY**

Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Services

Effective Date: October 1, 2021

Section 15: Services for the Resource Family

Version: 4

POLICY OVERVIEW

Services may be offered to assist the resource parent in providing a safe, stable and nurturing environment for the child. Developing effective services is a shared responsibility best achieved by families, community partners, and public agencies working collaboratively.

PROCEDURE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will offer services to the resource parent(s) to:

1. Support the resource parent's care of the child;
2. Ensure the child's needs are being met; and
3. Address issues that may lead to placement disruption.

DCS will also provide ongoing training on a variety of topics to licensed resource family homes (see policy 12.14 In-Service Training Requirements).

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Ensure the resource parent is notified of all Child and Family Team (CFT) Meetings or Case Plan Conferences (see policies 5.07 Child and Family Team Meetings and 5.08 Developing the Case Plan/Prevention Plan);
2. Discuss the permanency plan and second permanency plan, if concurrent planning, with the resource parent (see policy 5.15 Concurrent Planning) and ensure the resource parent understands the plan and the need to support the plan;
3. Provide the resource parent with a copy of the current Case Plan/Prevention Plan;
4. Maintain regular contact with the resource parent (see policy, 8.10 Minimum Contact); and
5. Refer the resource parent for community-based services (i.e., Resource Family Support Services) if there are issues that may lead to placement disruption (see policy 5.10 Family Services).

The FCM Supervisor will:

1. Discuss case specifics with the FCM and offer guidance as needed; and
2. Ensure the FCM completes a community-based services referral, when applicable.

The Regional Foster Care Specialist (RFCS) or Kinship Navigator (KN) (formerly known as the Relative Support Specialist [RSS]) will support the resource parent in seeking any needed services including but not limited to ensuring the licensed resource parent has information on available trainings and training requirements (see policy 12.14 In-Service Training Requirements).

LEGAL REFERENCES

N/A

RELEVANT INFORMATION

Definitions

Resource Parent

For purposes of DCS policy, a resource parent includes a foster parent, licensed or unlicensed relative or kinship caregiver, and a pre-adoptive parent.

Forms and Tools

- [8.C Tool: Supervision of Visits](#)
- Case Plan/Prevention Plan (SF 2956)– Available in the case management system

Related Policies

- [5.07 Child and Family Team Meetings](#)
- [5.08 Developing the Case Plan/Prevention Plan](#)
- [5.10 Family Services](#)
- [5.15 Concurrent Planning](#)
- [8.10 Minimum Contact](#)
- [12.14 In-Service Training Requirements](#)