

## **POLICY ON THE STEP DOWN MOVEMENT OF DELINQUENT CHILDREN IN PLACEMENT**

- I. DCS concurrence shall not be required for any step down move of a delinquent child in DCS paid placement. The term “step down” shall mean any of the following:
  - A. Movement from one unit directly to another unit in the same residential facility as part of a child’s anticipated or modified course of treatment which has been approved by the Court and when the movement results in an equal or lower level of restrictiveness.
  - B. Movement from one residential facility directly to another residential facility in the State of Indiana which results in a less restrictive placement according to the restrictiveness flow chart included below.
  - C. Movement, upon completion of a residential program directly to any of the following to effectuate the child’s Permanency Plan:
    - 1. Home to a parent guardian or custodian, with or without home-based or community based services.
    - 2. A foster care home licensed in Indiana.
  - D. Movement from a foster home directly to a parent, guardian or custodian, with or without home-based or community based services.

II. Lateral Movement:

A *lateral move* can occur after meaningful consultation between the probation officer and the probation services consultant which will occur prior to the movement of the child. A *lateral movement* is defined as movement from one residential facility directly to another residential facility in the State of Indiana with the same level of restrictiveness according to the restrictiveness flow chart included below. A meaningful consultation would constitute an exchange of information between the probation officer and the probation service consultant. This consultation could occur through verbal conversation, email exchange or through a submission through MaGIK/KidTraks for a probation service consultant review.

Restrictiveness flow chart from least to most restrictive:

Level of Care from lowest to highest:

- Foster Care
- Group Home
- Child Caring Institution
- Private Secure Facility or Program

**NOTES:**

**A new ICPR shall be created by the placing Probation Department in MaGIK/KidTraks with all movement specified above.**

**Movement to an out-of-state placement is not considered a step-down or lateral move.**