

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL	
	Chapter 10: Adoption	Effective Date: August 1, 2008
	Section 9: Preplacement Visits	Version: 1

POLICY	OLD POLICY: 710.2, 710.3
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The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will facilitate preplacement visits between the child, the current caregiver, and the prospective adoptive family. DCS will provide an opportunity to become familiar with one another and initiate the child's integration into the adoptive family. The purpose of preplacement visits, is to:

1. Diminish the child's fears and worries of the unknown;
2. Encourage the child to form new attachments; and
3. Help the child in the grieving process and making commitments for the future.

DCS will ensure as many preplacement visits as necessary on a progressive basis, including overnight and weekend visits based upon the age and the needs of the child.

Code References

N/A

PROCEDURE

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Develop a structured Visitation Plan with input from the Child and Family Team (CFT), current caregivers, and the child's therapist if applicable. The plan should:
 - a. Establish a projected placement date that remains flexible depending on the developmental needs of the child, general adjustment of the child and prospective adoptive family, and
 - b. Be progressive with visits increasing over time, thus allowing for increased exposure of the child and family to one another, with increased responsibility being given to the new family for the child's care over time.
2. Document the plan for preplacement visits in the Indiana Child Welfare System (ICWIS) contact logs;
3. Have weekly contact with the child during the transition to the adoptive placement and for the first 30 days after placement;
4. Document all face-to-face visits in ICWIS; and
5. Review visit outcomes with the CFT.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

N/A

FORMS AND TOOLS

N/A

RELATED INFORMATION

N/A

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