

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 7: In-Home Services	Effective Date: July 1, 2019
	Section 4: Parental Interaction and Involvement	Version: 3

STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will assess through a partnership with the Child and Family Team (CFT), the interactions of the parent, guardian, or custodian and the child who has been identified as a candidate at imminent risk of placement, to determine whether they are accomplishing the goals and objectives outlined in the current [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) or activities or actions in the Informal Adjustment (IA).

Note: DCS will complete on-going assessment of safety, risk, strengths, and needs throughout the life of the case.

DCS will utilize regular monthly contact with the parent, guardian, or custodian; the child; and service providers to track and make any necessary adjustments to the current [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) such as:

1. Incorporating new information and circumstances into the [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#);
2. Evaluating and updating the [Safety Plan \(SF53243\)](#);
3. Documenting progress made toward goals and objectives; and
4. Identifying barriers encountered by the family.

Note: DCS will update the [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) and engage the CFT anytime there is a significant change (e.g., identified needs, parents failure to participate in services, household composition changes, etc.). See policies [5.7 Child and Family Team Meetings](#) and [5.8 Developing the Case Plan](#).

DCS will utilize regular monthly contact with the parent, guardian, or custodian, the child, and service providers to monitor the family's progress and compliance with the IA or Child in Need of Services (CHINS). The family's progress, including successes and any violation of the Dispositional Order, will be regularly reported to the court. See policies [5.9 Informal Adjustment \(IA\)](#), [6.8 Three Month Progress Report](#), and [7.3 Minimum Contact](#) for further guidance.

DCS will assess if the parent, guardian, custodian, or non-custodial parent who is receiving in-home services is demonstrating the skills and techniques learned through the services provided throughout the life of the case.

DCS will encourage and support the interaction and involvement that is appropriate between the non-custodial parent, the parent, guardian, or custodian and the child, given the need for child safety and well-being, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

Note: Incarcerated parents should receive services and treatment while incarcerated, including visitation with the child, unless visitation is not in the best interest of the child.

Code References

[31-34-15-4: Forms; contents](#)

PROCEDURE

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Convene a CFT meeting, for the development of the [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) or IA and to connect the family with the appropriate services and resources. DCS will document any services and/or treatment available to the incarcerated parent in the [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#). See policies [5.7 Child and Family Team Meetings](#), [5.8 Developing the Case Plan](#) and [5.9 Informal Adjustment \(IA\)](#);

Note: Reconvene the CFT, if the [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) needs to be changed based on new information or circumstances or if the parent, guardian, or custodian does not comply with the services outlined in the IA agreement.

2. Complete on-going [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessments](#) and [Child and Adolescent Strengths and Needs \(CANS\) Assessments](#) throughout the life of the case. See policies [4.18 Initial Safety Assessment](#), [4.23 Initial Family Risk Assessment](#), and [5.19 Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths \(CANS\) Assessment](#);
3. Evaluate and/or update the [Safety Plan \(SF53243\)](#);
4. Engage and establish a partnership with the parent, guardian, custodian, or non-custodial parent, if applicable, and members of the CFT to obtain feedback to assist in the assessment of skills and techniques learned and/or demonstrated through services provided by service providers;
5. Report the family's progress, including successes and any violation of the Dispositional Order, to the court. See policy [6.8 Three Month Progress Report](#); and
6. Encourage and empower the parent, guardian, custodian, or non-custodial parent, if applicable, and members of the CFT throughout the life of the case to ensure safety, well-being, and stability for the child.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Incarcerated Parents

The [Incarcerated Parent Letter – Assessment](#) and [Incarcerated Parent Information \(SF56539\)](#) have been developed or used as tools for contact with incarcerated parents for gathering information. These forms do not replace appropriate engagement with the parents.

FORMS

1. [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) – Available in the case management system
2. [Program of Informal Adjustment](#)
3. [Safety Plan \(SF53243\)](#)
4. [In-Home Risk and Safety Reassessment](#) – Available in the case management system
5. [Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment \(CANS\)](#) – Available in the case management system
6. [Family Functional Assessment \(FFA\) Field Guide](#) – Available on the Indiana Practice Model SharePoint
7. [Incarcerated Parent Letter – Assessment](#)
8. [Incarcerated Parent Information \(SF56539\)](#)
9. [Incarcerated Parent Information \(SF56539\)](#)

RELATED INFORMATION

N/A

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