

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Services Section 15: Services for the Resource Family	
	Effective Date: December 1, 2023	Version: 5

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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.

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PROCEDURE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will offer services to the resource parent 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 and/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 (see policy 5.15 Concurrent Planning), with the resource parent 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 (e.g., Resource Family Support Services; food pantry; and Women, Infants, and Children [WIC]) in KidTraks, as applicable, 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 in KidTraks, 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).

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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

- 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/Second Permanency Plan- An Overview](#)
- [8.10 Minimum Contact](#)
- [12.14 In-Service Training Requirements](#)

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LEGAL REFERENCES

N/A

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PRACTICE GUIDANCE- DCS POLICY 8.15

Practice Guidance is designed to assist DCS staff with thoughtful and practical direction on how to effectively integrate tools and social work practice into daily case management in an effort to achieve positive family and child outcomes. Practice Guidance is separate from Policy.

N/A

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