

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL	
	Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Services	Effective Date: October 1, 2014
	Section 37: Holding a Placement during a Temporary Absence	Version: 3

POLICY [REVISED]

When a child in out-of-home care enters a hospital or is a runaway, the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will continue to make foster care payments to the resource family for a maximum of five (5) days if the intent is for the child to return to the same resource family.

[NEW] If a child is hospitalized for more than five (5) days and the resource parent maintains care of the child as evidenced by visits, DCS may, upon approval of the Regional Manager (RM), pay either:

1. Per diem and travel expenses exceeding 162 miles in a month; or
2. Travel only starting at mile 1.

Note: Each situation should be evaluated to determine which method is most appropriate for compensating the resource parent.

DCS will not pay for a five (5) day bed hold if the child is placed in any other setting (e.g. detention center, emergency shelter care facility, residential facility) unless an RM appeal is approved.

Code References

N/A

PROCEDURE

[REVISED] The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Engage the Child and Family Team (CFT) regarding the child's return to the same resource home at the end of the temporary absence;
2. Engage the CFT to discuss any possible changes to the current placement and/or alternative permanency plan. See separate policy, [5.15 Concurrent Planning](#);
3. Encourage the resource parent to have frequent face-to-face contact with the child during the temporary absence;
4. Ensure that the resource family home will have all of the necessary resources and support systems in place when the child returns to the home (i.e. counseling services, medical equipment); and
5. Submit a written request to the RM for per diem and/or travel expenses exceeding 162 miles in a month if a resource parent travels and maintains visits including overnight stays with a child who is hospitalized for longer than five (5) days.

The RM will approve/deny a request for per diem and travel as submitted from FCM for resource parents who traveled more than 162 miles in a month and maintained visits, including

overnight stays, with a child who is hospitalized longer than five (5) days.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

[NEW] Placement Holds

The placement will end for a child who has run away if the child is located within five (5) days and is placed elsewhere.

Placement holds will end for a child admitted to the hospital if the child is discharged from the hospital within five (5) days and placed elsewhere.

Per diem will continue to be paid beyond five (5) days if it is likely that the child will return to the placement he/she was in prior to absence if approved by the RM.

Placement holds do not include absences due to detention in a juvenile delinquency matter.

If the child does not return to the placement within five (5) consecutive days of absence, then that placement and per diem charge will be terminated for that child unless the RM has approved an extension.

A placement hold will end prior to five (5) days if there is no intent for the child to return to the resource home.

FORMS AND TOOLS

N/A

RELATED INFORMATION

N/A