

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Section 10: Minimum Contact	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 20

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) sets minimum contact requirements to:

1. Assess the child's safety, stability, well-being, and permanency;
2. Make sure court orders, the Case Plan/Prevention Plan, and the Safety Plan are being followed, along with service provider and the Child and Family Team (CFT) recommendations; and
3. Track progress and update services as needed.

POLICY STATEMENT

Requirements for face-to-face minimum contact are different depending on who the contact is with:

1. The child (including a child placed out-of-state or admitted to a residential treatment facility);
2. The resource parent; or
3. The child's parent, guardian, or custodian.

During case junctures, there must be weekly face-to-face contact with the child; parent, guardian, or custodian; and resource parent. Any concerns should be discussed with the resource parent; the parent, guardian, or custodian; and the child (as appropriate, based on the child's age and development).

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [42 U.S.C. 622\(b\)\(17\): State plans for child welfare services](#)