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|  | <b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES</b><br><b>CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b>                           |                   |
|                                                                                   | <b>Chapter 8:</b> Out-of-Home Services<br><b>Section 36:</b> Expectant Youth and Youth with Children |                   |
|                                                                                   | <b>Effective Date:</b> January 1, 2026                                                               | <b>Version:</b> 7 |

## POLICY OVERVIEW

All expectant or parenting youth in out-of-home care receive services to support their safety and well-being.

## POLICY STATEMENT

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will make sure a youth who is a parent and the youth's child stay together in the same home, unless extenuating circumstances exist (e.g., medical needs, psychological needs, home environment) that make it unsafe.

DCS will not file a Child in Need of Services (CHINS) case or remove the child of a parenting youth who is in out-of-home care unless:

1. The child is in danger; and
2. The intervention of the court is needed to keep the child safe.

If the parenting youth's child is found to be a CHINS and DCS is given wardship, DCS will:

1. Create a new case in the case management system; and
2. Complete a separate Title IV-E eligibility determination (see policy [4.28](#)).

**Note:** DCS recognizes that all parenting youth, regardless of gender, have the same rights and duties as all parents. All expecting and parenting youth in out-of-home care may be referred for services to help them build their parenting skills (e.g., fatherhood classes, counseling, parenting classes).

## LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 16-36-1-3.5: Consent by pregnant minor for pregnancy health care; contacting minor's parent or guardian](#)
- [IC 16-41-6-8: Informing pregnant woman of information; documenting information given and a refusal of test; information if test results positive; confidentiality](#)
- [42 USC 672: Foster Care Maintenance Payments Program](#)