

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Services Section 12: Developing the Visitation Plan	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 13

POLICY OVERVIEW

When a child has to live somewhere else for a while (called out-of-home care), it is very important they stay in touch with people they care about. Regularly seeing and talking to parents, brothers and sisters, and other important people helps minimize trauma. These visits can lower the stress of being away from home, help the child feel connected to their family, and support reunification.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will make sure every child in out-of-home care has a visitation plan, unless a judge says visits are not allowed. Visits will happen regularly while the child is in care.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-28-5-3: Persons who may request sibling visitation; department establishment of sibling visitation](#)
- [IC 31-34-12-9: Rebuttable presumption to prohibit in person contact with child](#)
- [IC 31-34-15-4: Form; content](#)