

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 7: In-Home Services Section 10: Transition to Out-of-Home Care	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 8

POLICY OVERVIEW

Out-of-home care is used when there is no other way to ensure a child's safety and well-being in the home. Whenever possible, the Child and Family Team (CFT) should plan for the child's out-of-home care to help reduce trauma. The transition should always be in the child's best interest.

POLICY STATEMENT

If a child is part of an Informal Adjustment (IA) or In-Home Child in Need of Services (CHINS), the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) may ask the court to place the child in out-of-home care if:

1. There are new reports of child abuse and/or neglect (CA/N) by the parent, guardian, or custodian or someone else living in the home;
2. The child needs more help to stay safe, and the safety risk cannot be reduced through a CHINS action; or
3. The parent, guardian, and/or custodian has not followed the Case Plan/Prevention Plan, and Reasonable Efforts (RE) failed or were not made due to an emergency.

DCS will ask for a new Detention Hearing to remove the child if the court already:

1. Issued an order about Best Interest (BI) and RE to Prevent Removal; and
2. Gave Placement and Care (PC) Responsibility to DCS but allowed the child to remain at home (see policy [15.01](#)).

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-34-3: Child Taken Into Custody](#)
- [IC 31-34-3-4.7: Notice to the child's school](#)
- [IC 31-34-4-2: Placement of child with relative caretaker or de facto custodian; evaluation; criminal history check required; exceptions; out-of-home placement; considerations](#)
- [IC 31-34-5-1: Time for hearing; notice; petition alleging a child is a child in need of services](#)
- [IC 31-34-5-2: Findings](#)