

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 15: Eligibility Section 03: Court Ordered Requirements for Title IV-E Initial Eligibility	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 5

POLICY OVERVIEW

Title IV-E Foster Care (Title IV-E) needs court order language to show a child is eligible.

POLICY STATEMENT

For a child to be eligible for Title IV-E funding, the following judicial decisions must be made by a court:

1. DCS or Probation has Placement and Care (PC) of the child;

Exception: Youth in Collaborative Care (CC) may have PC language in the Voluntary Collaborative Care Agreement between Older Youth and DCS.

2. It is not safe (Contrary to the Welfare [CTW]) for the child to stay at home or it is in the child's Best Interest (BI) to leave the home; and
3. Reasonable Efforts (RE) were made to prevent the child's removal from the home.

Exception: Youth in CC with a Voluntary Collaborative Care Agreement between Older Youth and DCS are not required to meet the RE requirement to be eligible for Title IV-E funding.

If the court determines RE was not required:

1. A permanency hearing must be held within 30 days after that decision; and
2. RE must be made to place the child
 - In a timely manner,
 - In accordance with the permanency plan, and
 - Complete the steps necessary to finalize a permanent placement.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-34-5-2: Findings](#)
- [IC 31-34-5-3: Release; findings required for detention order; approval of services, programs, and placement; court order; appeal; payment of costs](#)
- [IC 31-34-21-5.6: Exceptions to requirement to make reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify families](#)
- [42 USC 671\(a\)\(15\): State plan for foster care and adoption assistance](#)
- [42 USC 672\(a\)\(2\)\(A\) and \(B\): Foster care maintenance payments program](#)
- [45 CFR 1356.21\(b\), \(c\) and \(d\): Foster care maintenance payments program implementation requirements](#)