

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Section 41: Transitioning from Out-of-Home Care	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 8

POLICY OVERVIEW

Helping a child transition from out-of-home care to a permanent living situation is an ongoing process that takes time and planning. This planning helps the child have a safe and successful transition. It also gives time for start services and make sure they match the child's needs and Permanency Plan.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will offer transition services to any child who leaves out-of-home care through:

1. Reunification;
2. Adoption;
3. Emancipation; and
4. Guardianship.

DCS will:

1. Consider whether keeping a child and their sibling together is in the child's best interest;
2. Ask the caregiver if they need reasonable accommodations due to a disability to keep the child in the permanent home; and
3. Talk with the Child and Family Team (CFT) about the child and family's transitional needs every time the Permanency Plan is talked about or changed.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-10-2-1: Policy and purpose](#)
- [IC 31-26-5: Family Preservation Services](#)
- [IC 31-34-4-8: Change in temporary out-of-home placement; consideration of separation of siblings](#)
- [IC 31-34-19-6: Dispositional decree; considerations](#)
- [IC 31-34-21-7.6: Documents provided to individual leaving foster care](#)
- [IC 31-34-23-7: Change in out-of-home placement; consideration of separation of siblings](#)
- [42 USC 12102: Definition of disability](#)