

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 15: Eligibility Section 02: Initial Removal and Specified Relative	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 5

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) reviews the family's circumstance at the time the child was removed from the home to decide if the child is eligible for Title IV-E Foster Care (Title IV-E) funding.

POLICY STATEMENT

Title IV-E eligibility is based on the month the child first enters out-of-home care. To meet Title IV-E rules, all of the following must be true:

1. The child must be removed from a specified relative by a court order for a physical or constructive removal;

Exception: In a Collaborative Care (CC) case, the youth can be the specified relative.

2. The court order must happen at the same time or soon after the child is removed. If a child is removed by a court order but still lives with the same parent, guardian, or custodian, it does not count as a removal for Title IV-E;

Exception: A child placed with a parent in a licensed family-based treatment facility for substance use may still qualify for Title IV-E.

3. The child must have lived with the specified relative at the time of removal or within the last six (6) months.

Children of DCS Wards

A Title IV-E check is not needed for the child of a DCS ward unless the child has been legally removed.

Note: A child removed from home who still lives with a parent who is a minor may still qualify for Title IV-E if all other criteria are met.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-34-5-2: Findings](#)
- [IC 31-34-5-3: Release or detention; findings required for detention; contents of detention order](#)
- [42 USC 672: Foster care maintenance program](#)
- [45 CFR 1356.21 \(j\), \(k\) and \(l\): Foster care maintenance payments program implementation requirements](#)
- [465 IAC 2-7-5: Title IV-E; foster care eligibility](#)