

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 7: In-Home Services Section 01: Determining Imminent Risk of Removal	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 7

POLICY OVERVIEW

Concerted efforts should be made to keep a child from being removed from their home because it is important to decide if they are in immediate danger and need foster care.

POLICY STATEMENT

A child is at imminent risk of removal from their home when the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) finds that Child Abuse and/or Neglect (CA/N) has happened and reasonable efforts were made to prevent the child's removal from their home. This is determined by:

1. An approved assessment;
2. An Informal Adjustment/Prevention Plan (IA); or
3. An In-home Child in Need of Services (CHINS) case.

DCS will make an initial determination as to whether a child is at imminent risk of removal and therefore a candidate for placement in out-of-home care. Imminent risk as it relates to candidacy (see Definitions) does NOT mean the immediate removal of a child from the home. DCS will re-determine imminent risk of removal at least every 180 days.

Note: Indiana Code uses the phrase "imminent risk of placement" rather than "imminent risk of removal".

States may receive Title IV-E funds to help assist with the administrative costs of a child determined to be at imminent risk of removal.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-26-5-1: Child at imminent risk of placement](#)
- [42 USC 672 \(i\)\(2\): Administrative costs associated with otherwise eligible children not in licensed foster care settings](#)
- [42 USC 5106a: Grants for programs and projects](#)
- [465 IAC 2-7-5: Title IVE; foster care eligibility](#)