

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 11: Older Youth Services Section 26: Minimum Contact for Collaborative Care Placements	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 3

POLICY OVERVIEW

Meeting with youth in Collaborative Care (CC) every month helps the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS):

1. Make sure the youth is safe, stable, and doing well;
2. Build a strong, supportive relationship with the youth;
3. Track the youth's progress;
4. Talk about how the youth feels about living on their own, with a resource parent or host home; and
5. Support the youth's social life and connections to others.

These regular visits help DCS update the youth's Case Plan and Transition Plan as needed.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS will meet face-to-face with each youth in CC at least once a month. No more than 30 days should pass between visits. These visits can alternate from the youth's home to other locations like their school, court, or another location.

If the youth is in residential treatment, the Older Youth Case Manager (OYCM) must also contact the youth every week. These weekly check-ins can be by phone or video, depending on what the residential program allows.

DCS will also meet in person with the resource parent (including host homes) at least every other month.

If something big happens (called a case juncture) in the youth's life or with the resource parent (including in host homes), the OYCM must:

1. Contact the youth, host home, and/or resource parent every week, and
2. Keep checking in until the situation is stable.

The OYCM will work closely with the resource parent to meet the youth's needs and help them succeed.

Note: Youth in CC who live on their own are considered their own caregiver.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-28-5.8-6: Updating case plans; transitional services plan; visitation with family case manager](#)