

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Services Section 11: Parental Interaction and Involvement	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 8

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) wants children and their parents, guardians, or custodians to spend as much time together as possible, unless this interaction conflicts with a judge's order. Spending time together helps the relationship between parent and child grow stronger and helps the child feel safe and cared for while living in a different home.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS maintains regular contact (see Definitions) with the parent, guardian, or custodian to check on how things are going and will make changes as needed to the Case Plan/Prevention Plan. DCS will also decide the appropriate amount of interaction and involvement between the child and the parent, guardian, or custodian. DCS will make reasonable efforts to support and facilitate two-way communication between a child's parent, guardian, or custodian and any resource parent caring for the child. Child safety and well-being is the priority in this decision.

Visiting in person is just one way for children and their parent, guardian, or custodian to stay connected. Other ways include:

- Talking on the phone;
- Sending emails;
- Writing letters; or
- Sharing special things like drawings, photographs, and small gifts.

Note: These other ways of staying connected become even more important when face-to-face contact is not regular or consistent.

Even if a parent, guardian, or custodian is not allowed any interaction with their child they may still be involved in making important decisions. Examples include, but are not limited to, making decisions about:

- The child's health care;
- School, learning and meetings;
- Extracurricular activities;
- Hair length and styles;
- Attendance at medical appointments;
- Participation in Child and Family Team (CFT) Meetings.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-10-2-1: Policy and purpose](#)