



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY

Chapter 15: Eligibility **Effective Date:** January 1, 2020

Section 9: Age and Citizenship **Version:** 3

STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE

The Department of Child Services (DCS) will verify and document the [age](#) and [citizenship](#) of a child to determine eligibility for Title IV-E Foster Care (Title IV-E) funding.

Code References

1. [42 USC 671\(a\)\(27\): State Plan for Foster Care and Adoption Assistance](#)
2. [42 USC 672\(a\)\(3\): Foster care maintenance payments program](#)
3. [42 USC 675\(8\): Definitions](#)
4. [IC 31-9-2-13: Child](#)
5. [IC 31-28-5.8: Collaborative Care](#)

PROCEDURE

The DCS Central Eligibility Unit (CEU) will:

1. Review the eligibility information in the case management system; and
2. Make a determination of whether the age and citizenship criteria are met.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Age

In order to be eligible for Title IV-E, the child must be under 18 years of age at the time of removal or entering the Collaborative Care (CC) program. See policy [11.18 Eligibility for Collaborative Care](#) for information on CC eligibility criteria and [Related Information](#) for examples of supporting documentation to verify a child's age.

Citizenship

In order to be eligible for Title IV-E, the child must be either a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence. See policy [2.23 Verifying Citizenship or Immigration Status](#) for additional guidance and examples of supporting documentation to verify citizenship.

FORMS AND TOOLS

[Title IV-E and Title IV-A/EA Information \(SF55435\)](#)

RELATED INFORMATION

Supporting Documentation to Verify Age

Examples of acceptable supporting documentation that may be used to verify the child's age include, but are not limited to:

1. Birth certificate;
2. Bureau of Vital Statistics;
3. Public Assistance records;
4. School records;
5. Hospital records;
6. Physician records;
7. Passport;
8. Driver's license;
9. State Identification Card (ID);
10. Naturalization papers; and
11. Immigration papers.