

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL	
	Chapter 7: In-Home Services	Effective Date: October 1, 2008
	Section 4: Parental Interaction and Involvement	Version: 1

POLICY

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will assess through a partnership with the Child and Family Team (CFT), the interactions of the parent, guardian, or custodian and the child who has been identified as a candidate at imminent risk of placement, to determine whether they are accomplishing the goals and objectives outlined in the current Case Plan or activities or actions in the Informal Adjustment (IA).

Note: DCS will complete on-going assessment of safety, risk, strengths and needs throughout the life of the case.

DCS will utilize regular monthly contact with the parent, guardian, or custodian, the child and service providers to track and make any necessary adjustments to the current Case Plan such as:

1. Incorporating new information and circumstances into the Case Plan;
2. Documenting progress made; and
3. Identifying barriers encountered by the family.

Note: DCS will update the Case Plan and engage the Child and Family Team (CFT) anytime there is a significant change (e.g., identified needs, parents failure to participate in services, household composition changes, etc.) . See separate policies, [5.7 Child and Family Team Meetings](#) and [5.8 Developing the Case Plan](#).

DCS will utilize regular monthly contact with the parent, guardian, or custodian, the child, and service providers to monitor the family’s progress and compliance with the IA or CHINS. See separate policies, [5.9 Informal Adjustment \(IA\)](#) and [7.3 Minimum Contact](#) for further guidance.

DCS will assess if the parent, guardian, or custodian, or non-custodial parent who is receiving in-home services is demonstrating the skills and techniques learned through the services provided throughout the life of the case.

DCS will encourage and support the interaction and involvement that is appropriate between the non-custodial parent, the parent, guardian, or custodian and the child, given the need for child safety and well-being, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

Code References

N/A

PROCEDURE

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Convene a CFT meeting, for the development of the Case Plan or IA and to connect the family with the appropriate services and resources. See separate policies, [5.7 Child and Family Team Meetings](#), [5.8 Developing the Case Plan](#) and [5.9 Informal Adjustment \(IA\)](#);

Note: Reconvene the CFT, if the Case Plan needs to be changed based on new information or circumstances or if the parent, guardian, or custodian does not comply with the services outlined in the IA agreement.

2. Complete on-going Safety, Risk, Strength, and Needs assessments throughout the life of the case. See separate policies, [4.18 Initial Safety Assessment](#), [4.23 Initial Family Risk Assessment](#), and [5.19 Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths \(CANS\) Assessment](#);
3. Engage and establish a partnership with the parent, guardian, or custodian, non-custodial parent, if applicable, and members of the CFT to obtain feedback to assist in the assessment of skills and techniques learned and/or demonstrated through services provided by service providers; and
4. Encourage and empower the parent, guardian, or custodian, non-custodial parent, if applicable, and members of the CFT throughout the life of the case to ensure safety, well-being, and stability for the child.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

[NEW] Incarcerated Parents

DCS providers, including the fatherhood program providers, may enter Indiana Department of Corrections (DOC) facilities to provide services and meet with parents; provided that, in each case, the incarcerated parent has signed a release of information allowing DCS to share the information collected by such providers with DOC.

FORMS

[Family Functional Assessment \(FFA\) Field Guide](#)

RELATED INFORMATION

N/A