Request for Removal of Child from Foster Care Home

Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families

Policy: 900.0075

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The Department is responsible to ensure the safety, permanency and well being of a child while he or she is placed in foster care. A child placed in either relative or non-relative foster care is likely to be the victim of some physiological and emotional trauma as the result of separation from family. Foster parents, as partners with the Department, provide an invaluable service for children in care. Since a stable placement is essential for a child's overall development and well being, efforts need to be made to preserve and strengthen foster homes. These efforts include, at a minimum, regular home visits and ongoing telephone communication by the assigned worker with the child and foster family. Occasionally, despite such efforts, a change in a child's placement is requested and indicated. To minimize the negative effect of the disruption upon the child and to preserve valuable foster home resources, the Department has developed a process for foster parents and workers to follow when either party wishes to request that a child be removed from a foster home. This procedure has been designed to ensure that foster parents and staff work cooperatively to resolve the placement issues while maintaining the best interests of the child.

If a foster parent wishes to request a child's removal from the foster home, he or she must submit a written notice to the Department outlining the reasons why the child's removal is being requested. The Department will have ten (10) working days from the receipt of the written notice to either take action to resolve the issues initiating the request or remove the child. A meeting with all relevant parties will be scheduled within two (2) working days of the receipt of the notice to review the request and discuss appropriate action. Efforts must be made to learn if available services may preserve the placement and avoid disruption for the child. In the event a placement change is necessary, the focus of planning is to transition the child to another placement. If the Department is in agreement that a change in the child's placement is warranted, the meeting may be waived.

The Department is responsible to provide written notification to a foster family informing the family of the decision to move a child from the home within ten (10) working days. Administrative approval must be granted prior to sending out this notice. This notification is waived when the child is being moved due to safety issues in the placement, when removal has been ordered by a Court of appropriate jurisdiction or the return of the child has been requested by a parent or guardian in accordance with the terms of a voluntary agreement. The period of notification of ten (10) working days may also be waived if the foster parent is in agreement with the plan to move the child. Any foster parent who disagrees with this action has the right to appeal the Department's decision through the Department's appeal process (**Refer to Policy 100.0055, Complaints and Hearings**).

Related Procedure

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Procedure from Policy 900.0075: **Request for Removal of Child from Foster Care Home**

A. Any foster parent who is requesting that a child be moved from the foster home must submit to the Department a written notice outlining the reasons why the child's removal is being requested.

1. Upon receipt of a notice requesting that a child be removed from a foster home, the assigned worker/supervisor is responsible to convene a meeting within two (2) working days of the receipt of such notice to discuss possible alternatives to avoid removal or to develop an alternative plan for the child.
    a. Foster parents, the DCYF foster parent liaison, the DCYF licensing worker and family members, if appropriate, are invited to the meeting.
    b. The worker's immediate supervisor is responsible to chair the meeting to be held at the regional office.
2. The Department has ten (10) working days from the receipt of the written notice to either take action to resolve the issues initiating the request or remove the child.
3. If the Department is in agreement with the foster parent's request that a child be moved, the meeting may be waived.

B. The Department is responsible to provide written notification to a foster family informing the family of the decision to move a child from the home within ten (10) working days.

1. Approval from the administrator or regional director must be received prior to sending written notification to a foster family regarding a child's removal from the home.
2. Any foster parent who disagrees with this action has the right to appeal the Department's decision through the Department's appeal process (Refer to Policy 100.0055, Complaints and Hearings).
3. This notification is waived in the following circumstances:
    a. The child is being moved due to safety issues in the placement.
    b. The removal has been ordered by a Court of appropriate jurisdiction.
    c. The return of the child has been requested by a parent or guardian in accordance with the terms of a voluntary agreement (Refer to Policy700.0015, Voluntary Placement).
    d. The foster parent is in agreement with the plan to move the child.