



State of South Carolina

Department of Social Services

Child Welfare Policies and Procedures: Chapter 5

Subject:	510.2.3 Temporary Placements or Events in Foster Care
Authority:	N/A
Standards:	South Carolina Practice Model: Guiding Principles and Standards (GPS)
Application:	Foster Care and Adoption Case Managers, Foster Care and Adoptions Supervisors, and Foster Home Licensing Case Managers and Supervisors
Purpose:	To establish a consistent definition, practice, and documentation of temporary placements or events in which a foster child or youth may need to be placed outside of their current placement for a short time or have left the placement without permission or by force. These temporary placements or events are not considered placement changes if the intent is for them to return to the current placement.
Policy Statement:	The South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) identifies and documents all temporary placements or events for a foster child or youth.
Definitions:	Custodial Parent Reunification Visit: Visits between the child or youth and the parent or legal guardian with whom the child or youth was living with before entering foster care to help strengthen the parent-child bond. Additionally, these visits are to determine what services need to be placed in the home to promote successful reunification and prevent re-entry into foster care. Non-Custodial Parent Placement Visit: Visits between the child or youth and the parent or legal guardian with whom the child or youth was not living before entering foster care. Non-custodial parent placement visits are to promote, develop, and strengthen the parent-child bond to determine the viability of becoming a placement resource, to promote a successful transition into the non-custodial parent's home, and prevent re-entry into foster care.

Current Effective Date: July 24, 2020

College/Youth Overnight Visits: Short-term overnight care provided to a foster youth who is living on a college campus.

Visitation With Potential Foster Parent: Visits between a foster child or youth and prospective foster parent before placement is finalized to allow for engagement.

Medical Hospitalization: Placement in a non-psychiatric medical setting for care.

Kidnapped: Foster child or youth that is illegally taken away by force.

Psychiatric Acute Care Hospitalization: Short-term crisis stabilization hospitalization.

Respite: A temporary break in caretaking responsibility either as a result of a child or youth experiencing a crisis, the caregiver's need for a break or as a part of a child or youth's case plan (Planned or Unplanned).

Runaway: Unauthorized leave of a foster child or youth from placement for at least 24 hours.

Specialized Schools: A school that serves a specialized population of children or youth. The SC School for the Deaf and Blind is an example of a Specialized School.

Summer Camp: Foster children or youth may attend a residential summer camp program while residing in a foster care placement. SCDSS must provide preapproval for a camp lasting more than seven days.

Specialized School Or Wilderness Camp Break: A foster child or youth often has a set amount of time away from these placements to allow staff and the child or youth time to recharge.

Step-down Placement Visits: From a higher level of care to a less restrictive level of care (Ex: High Management Group Home to a Moderate Management Group Home).

Visitation With Kin/Fictive Kin For Placement: Visitation between child or youth and kin/fictive kin to promote a successful transition into placement.

Visitation With The Potential Adoptive Family: Visitation between child or youth and a prospective adoptive home before any type of adoption placement agreement

is signed. These visits allow the child or youth and potential adoptive family to meet, build connections, and allow for a transition into the home.

Procedures:

A. Case Manager will monitor the type of temporary placement or event and the time limits to promote case planning

Type/Time Limits for Temporary Placements or Events

1. Custodial Parent Reunification Visit
 - a. Less than 30 consecutive calendar days.
2. Non-Custodial Parent Placement Visit
 - a. Less than 30 consecutive calendar days.
3. College/Youth Overnight Visits
 - a. It can be more or less than 30 consecutive calendar days depending on the length of the break.
4. Visitation with the potential foster parent
 - a. Less than 30 consecutive calendar days.
 - b. The foster parent is not paid for the days the child or youth visits.
5. Medical Hospitalization
 - a. Less than 30 consecutive calendar days.
6. Kidnapped
 - a. Can be more or less than 30 consecutive calendar days.
7. Psychiatric Acute Care Hospitalization
 - a. Less than 30 consecutive calendar days.

	8. Respite a. Leave can be for planned events, i.e. foster parent going on vacation, having a medical procedure, or an event that is not appropriate for the child or youth to remain in the home or unplanned events, i.e. death in the family, unplanned medical reasons. b. Foster parents may use three consecutive calendar days of paid leave at one time. c. Foster parents may be granted permission to have more than three consecutive calendar days due to the situation but leave cannot be for more than 30 consecutive calendar days. 9. Runaway a. Can be more or less than 30 consecutive calendar days. 10. Summer Camp a. Less than 30 consecutive calendar days. b. Any camp lasting longer than seven consecutive calendar days requires preapproval from SCDSS. 11. Specialized School or Wilderness Camp Break a. Can be more or less than 30 consecutive calendar days. 12. Step-down placement visits a. Cannot be more than five consecutive calendar days at one time. b. Requires approval by Clinical Consultant.
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	c. No more than 30 calendar days total. 13. Visitation with kin/fictive kin for placement a. Less than 30 consecutive calendar days. b. The kin/fictive kin is not paid for the days of the child or youth visit. 14. Visitation with a potential adoptive family a. Less than 30 consecutive calendar days. b. The adoptive family is not paid for the days of the child or youth visit. 15. If the foster child or youth does not return to the original foster home placement then it is not considered a temporary placement or event and a placement change must be entered into CAPSS within two business days. a. The Case Manager will need to complete the DSS Form 37508: Placement Notification Form and email it to placementchanges@dss.sc.gov. 16. If the foster child or youth is placed in more than one temporary placement or event within a 12-month time frame, the foster child or youth must be placed in a permanent placement within seven days.
B. Notification and Request of Temporary Placements or Events	1. The Case Manager is notified of the need for a temporary placement or event by the provider. 2. Depending on the event the Case Manager will notify the Regional Foster Family Licensing and Support Placement Unit to assist with placement (respite, college/youth overnight visits, summer camp, specialized school or wilderness camp break, transitional visits with Foster Parents or step-down).

	a. The Foster Family Licensing and Support (FFLS) Placement Unit will notify the Case Manager of the placement and whether or not the foster family qualifies for paid respite. 3. If the foster child or youth is hospitalized, kidnapped, or is on runaway, the Case Manager will notify their Supervisor and the Supervisor will notify the County Director. 4. If the foster child or youth visits with the custodial parent, non-custodial parent, kin, or potential adoptive parent, the Case Manager is to document this visit in the visitation section of CAPSS.
C. Documentation of a Temporary Placement or Event	1. The Case Manager will complete Section C of the DSS Form 37508: Placement Notification Form and email it to placementchange@dss.sc.gov by the close of the next business day of the temporary placement starting. 2. Placement information for the foster child or youth will be entered into CAPSS by the State Office Foster Family Licensing and Support (FFLS) by close of the next business day of after receiving DSS Form 37508: Placement Notification Form. 3. The Case Manager or Supervisor will notify State Office FFLS by the close of the next business day of the temporary placement or event ending by completing Section D of the DSS Form 37508: Placement Notification Form and emailing it to placementchange@dss.sc.gov. 4. The temporary placement or event end date and reason will be entered into CAPSS by the State Office FFLS by close of the next business day of receiving the DSS Form 37508: Placement Change Notification Form. 5. If the foster child or youth visits with the custodial parent, non-custodial parent, kin, or potential

	adoptive family the Case Manager is to document this visit in the visitation section of CAPSS. 6. Case Manager will enter dictation regarding all temporary placements or events into dictation in the child's case in CAPSS.
D. Temporary Placement or Event End Reasons	Closure Reasons 1. Foster child or youth returned to previous placement or new placement. 2. Foster child or youth returned from Runaway. 3. Foster youth reached the age of majority. 4. Foster child or youth returned home (no longer in custody). 5. Foster child or youth entered another temporary event. 6. Foster child or youth passed away while in temporary placement or event.
Forms:	DSS Form 30249: Foster Care Respite/College Youth Overnight Payment Invoice DSS Form 37508: Placement Notification Form
Resources:	
Related Management Reports:	CAPSS Push Reports