



436 Separation of Siblings - Issues to Consider



Batthula, Sharath B
Application Analyst II

CHAPTER 4, Adoption and Birth Parent Services

Revision Number: 03-03

Effective Date: 11/18/2003

436 Separation of Siblings - Issues to Consider

- What are each child's special needs? What services are required to meet them? What are the extra demands on the child's caretaker?
- Have the children lived together in foster care? If yes, how long? If not, why? What efforts were made to prevent separation? What efforts were made to reunite the children? What kind of visitation has been scheduled between the siblings to maintain the sibling bond?
- What have you observed to be the relationship between the children? How attached are they to each other? Do they talk about each other? If negative interactions are observed between the siblings, how do they differ from normal sibling rivalry? How has the role of each child in the birth family affected the relationships between the siblings?
- Have the children been in therapy? How long and how consistent has the therapy been? What are the issues addressed, the therapy goals and what progress has been made? Do the children see the same therapist? If not, what attempt has been made to get the therapists together with involved agency staff to discuss the needs of the children and the long-term effects of permanent separation? If the child's/children's

problems could be stabilized, could the children be placed together?

- What is the level of success of the child's/children's current placements? If successful, what are the qualities/abilities of the current caretaker(s) that contribute to the success? If the children have been successfully placed together in the past, what were the qualities/abilities of the caretaker(s) that contributed to the success? With the right kind of family, could these children be placed together?
- If the children disrupted from a placement where they were placed together, was the disruption due to the children's needs/behaviors, or was the placement resource not an appropriate match to the children's needs?
- What is each child's ability to attach and to form new attachments?
- Does each child indicate a desire to be placed with siblings? If not, why? What are each child's age, maturity level and ability to understand his/her decision?
- Are families available who will take a sibling group? If not, how long will it take to locate an appropriate family?
- How receptive to adoption is each child?
- What is each child's attachment to and desire to remain in current placement, including each child's willingness to move from current provider and accept placement in another family?
- Has a sibling bond assessment been done?

Referenced Documents

Revision Comments