

419 Post-Placement Services



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CHAPTER 4, Adoption and Birth Parent Services

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Adoption Specialist (Supervising Placement)

1. Makes first home visit within one week of placement. Discusses the post-placement case plan, [DSS Form 30144: Service Agreement Family](#), with the family and the child [if twelve (12) years old or older or if otherwise appropriate], and obtains signatures of adoptive parent(s) on the case plan if not previously signed with the child's worker;
2. Visits in the home a minimum of once per month to provide counseling and support to all family members. Conducts face-to-face interviews with the child, adoptive parent(s), and any other adults living in the home. The worker will interview the child outside the presence of others in the home in order to assess the child's health and safety. If abuse or neglect is suspected, interviews and observes child outside the presence of others in the home;
3. If abuse or neglect is suspected, makes a report orally by telephone or otherwise to Out of Home Abuse and Neglect (OHAN) in State Office;

Note: If, at any time during a foster care/adoption case, a worker receives an allegation that a child has been subjected to abuse, neglect or exploitation in a foster or adoptive home or institutional setting, the worker shall make a report to the Out of Home Abuse and Neglect Division within 2 hours of the worker's receipt of the allegation.

Further, if the information involves the sexual abuse of a child, or contains any other allegations where the facts indicating abuse and neglect also appear to indicate a violation of criminal law, the worker shall notify the local law enforcement entity immediately. This notification can be verbally but must also be in writing.

4. Documents monthly contact with the child and family according to agency guidelines/requirements, including the following:

- a. Child's overall physical and emotional adjustment since being placed, including any significant changes in the child's behavior, health, personality, etc.
- b. Family's adjustment to the placement, including any significant changes in family relationships, stresses, and concerns regarding the child or the progress of the placement;
- c. Adoption specialist's observations and recommendations;

Adoption Specialist (Supervising Placement)

5. Counsels with the family on their feelings about the child and the placement. Discusses problems that the family is experiencing or may expect to experience, based on the child's past behavior and/or special needs. Assists the family in resolving problems, either through counseling or referral and linkage to appropriate resources; and

6. Determines, along with the family, when it is time to finalize the adoption and proceeds with this recommendation. If an extension of post-placement is needed or if early finalization seems warranted, the adoption supervisor must concur. If the Department will not be consenting to an adoption by this family, informs family of that fact. If family has any further questions, instructs them to contact an attorney.

Referenced Documents

[DSS Form 30144: Service Agreement Family](#)

Revision Comments

Adding clarifications of reporting requirements of allegations of abuse and neglect for open foster care and adoption program services.