

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 10: Adoption	Effective Date: July 1, 2014
	Section 9: Pre-placement Visits	Version: 2

STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will facilitate pre-placement visits between the child, the current caregiver, and the prospective adoptive family. DCS will provide an opportunity for the pre-adoptive family and child to bond with one another and initiate the child's integration into the prospective adoptive family.

The purpose of pre-placement visits is to:

1. Diminish the child's and prospective adoptive family's fears and worries of the unknown;
2. Encourage the child to form new attachments;
3. Help the child through the grieving process; and
4. Promote healthy interaction between the current caregiver, child, and prospective adoptive family.

DCS will ensure the child and prospective adoptive family have as many pre-placement visits as necessary. These visits will progress to include overnight and weekend visits based upon the age and the needs of the child.

DCS will pay the prospective adoptive parent, who is licensed for foster care, for travel expenses incurred when the prospective adoptive parent travels at least one (1) mile for pre-placement visits with a child when overnight visits are not included. Mileage will be paid starting at mile one (1).

DCS will pay the prospective adoptive parent, who is licensed for foster care, a per diem for each overnight pre-placement visit with a child. In addition, DCS will also pay properly claimed mileage incurred if the child's foster parent travels over 162 miles for the visits.

Note: Pre-placement expenses for a prospective adoptive parent would be paid through a global services referral in KidTraks.

Code References
N/A

PROCEDURE

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Develop a structured [Visitation Plan](#) with input from the Child and Family Team (CFT), current caregivers, the prospective adoptive parents, and the child's therapist, if applicable. The plan should:
 - a. Establish a projected placement date that remains flexible depending on the developmental needs of the child and the general adjustment of the child and prospective adoptive family, and

- b. Be progressive with visits increasing over time, thus allowing for increased exposure of the child and family to one another, with increased responsibility being given to the prospective adoptive family for the child's care.
- 2. Document the plan for pre-placement visits in contacts in the case management system;
- 3. Have weekly contact with the child during the transition to the adoptive placement and for the first 30 days after placement. Then resume regular monthly contacts until dismissal of the case;
- 4. Document all face-to-face visits in the case management system; and
- 5. Review visit outcomes with the CFT.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

N/A

FORMS AND TOOLS

N/A

RELATED INFORMATION

N/A

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