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|  | INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL | |
| | Chapter 7: In-Home Services | Effective Date: 2/1/07 |
| | Section 1: Child at Imminent Risk of Placement | Version: 1 |

POLICY

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will make an initial determination as to whether an individual child is a candidate for foster care and therefore at imminent risk of placement and will re-determine imminent risk every 180 days.

DCS defines a child at imminent risk of placement as a child less than eighteen (18) years of age who reasonably may be expected to face out-of-home placement in the near future as a result of at least one (1) of the following:

1. Abuse or neglect.
2. Emotional or mental disturbance
3. Family conflict so extensive that reasonable control of the child is not exercised.

Code References

1. Deficit Reduction Act of 2005; Public Law 109-171

PROCEDURE

The initial determination that a child is at imminent risk for placement will be the substantiation of abuse or neglect by the DCS as documented by an approved substantiated Investigation of Alleged Child Abuse or Neglect SF113/CW0311.

CHINS 6. The case type of CHINS 6 will not typically result in an Investigation of Alleged Child Abuse or Neglect SF113/CW0311. The intake is a service request which creates a CHINS case type of CHINS 6. If a CHINS 6 resulted from a service request the initial documentation will be the opening of a CHINS case.

Re-determination that the child continues to be at imminent risk for removal will be completed on every child with an open case type of Informal Adjustment (IA) or in home Child in Need of Services (CHINS) within six (6) months of the initial determination. Re-determinations will be conducted as follows:

CHINS:

Document via the hearings module that:

- a. the child is at imminent risk for out-of-home placement and that reasonable efforts are continuing to be made to maintain the child at home and the Risk Assessment indicates a need for continued services; or
- b. the child is no longer at imminent risk for out of home placement. Reasonable Efforts have been offered and available to prevent the need for removal. These services offered have not been successful to allow the child to remain at home.

Informal Adjustments

Re-determinations will be documented by requesting an extension of the original six-month IA agreement. The re-determination of imminent risk for placement should be documented on the five (5)-month report information screen. The Family Casemanager will document that:

- a. the child is at imminent risk for out-of-home placement and that reasonable efforts are continuing to be made to maintain the child at home and the Risk Assessment indicates a need for continued services; or
- b. the child is no longer at imminent risk for out of home placement. Reasonable Efforts have been offered and available to prevent the need for removal. These services offered have not been successful to allow the child to remain at home.

Failure to substantially comply with the IA can also result in the need for an increased level of intervention; i.e., the filing of a CHINS petition. The resulting Preliminary Inquiry Affidavit (PI) will serve as the re-determination documentation.

Service Referral Agreement (SRA):

- a. SRAs last for six months and can not be extended.
- b. Failure to substantially comply with the SRA can result in the need for an increased level of intervention; i.e., the filing of an IA or CHINS petition. The resulting Preliminary Inquiry Affidavit (PI) will serve as the re-determination documentation.

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| PRACTICE GUIDANCE |
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N/A

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| FORMS AND TOOLS |
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N/A

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| RELATED INFORMATION |
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Outlining the population

Candidates for out-of-home placements/children at imminent risk for placement include:

1. Child residing in his/her own home
2. Children on the run from home/facility
3. Children placed with the non-custodial parents.

Children at imminent risk for placement do not include:

1. Children in substitute care
2. Children placed in licensed foster homes or unlicensed relative homes
3. Children on a trial home visit for the initial six months, and/or children for whom an extension of the trial home visit has been granted by the court.