

65C-28.005 Changing Placements.

(1) Except in emergency situations, the child's parents, unless contrary to court order, licensed out-of-home caregivers and the guardian ad litem or attorney ad litem, if appointed, shall be given at least two

(2) weeks notice prior to moving a child from one out-of-home placement to another and the reason a placement change is necessary. In emergency situations, a change of placement can be made immediately. The child welfare professional shall within 72 hours inform the child's parents, unless contrary to court order, Children's Legal Services and guardian ad litem and child's attorney, if appointed, of the move and the reasons an emergency placement change was necessary.

(a) Parental notification of any placement changes shall be documented in FSFN, unless the court previously excused the Department from further efforts to locate.

(b) If the parent(s) is unable to be located, efforts to locate and notify the parent shall be documented in FSFN.

(2) The child welfare professional shall prepare the child for a move and support the child during the re-placement process.

(3) The child welfare professional shall provide supportive services to the caregiver where the child is residing to avoid a change in placement when possible. When a placement is in danger of disrupting, the child welfare professional shall urge the caregiver to wait to request removal of the child until efforts can be made to remedy the reasons for the child's instability. When efforts to stabilize a placement have not been successful or there are circumstances that preclude the child's continued stay, the child welfare professional will work with the caregiver to reach agreement on a move date that takes into consideration the following needs of the child:

(a) There is a break in the school year;

(b) An alternative placement can be located; and,

(c) Arrangements for the child's transition to the new setting can be made and implemented.

(4) The caregiver at the new placement shall be prepared and informed prior to placement of the child and shall be given needed support to help the child transition and achieve stability. Out-of-home caregivers shall be given all relevant information about the child in their care while maintaining confidentiality requirements. Specifically, the child welfare professional shall:

(a) Inform the caregiver of all identified needs of the child;

(b) Discuss any training the caregiver may need to care for the child, including any special needs of the child and possible reactions to the specific trauma that the child has experienced;

(c) Discuss any services that the child may need and the role of the out-of-home caregiver with regard to transportation, participation in treatment sessions, communication with treatment provider(s) and potential implementation of treatment recommendations in the home;

(d) Inform the out-of-home caregiver about available programs that may provide financial and medical assistance for the child;

(e) Provide the out-of-home caregiver with counseling and information regarding the dependency process and support services available in the community;

(f) Review with the licensed out-of-home caregivers their roles and responsibilities according to the "Partnership Plan for Children in Licensed Out-of-Home Care," incorporated in paragraph 65C-28.004(6)(c), F.A.C. The child welfare professional shall sign a copy of the Partnership Plan and obtain a signature of the licensed out-of-home caregiver, attesting acknowledgment of the requirements at time of placement; and,

(g) Provide to the out-of-home caregiver the Child's Resource Record. The Child's Resource Record from the previous placement(s) shall be reviewed with the out-of-home caregiver upon the child's new placement. The child welfare professional shall discuss with the out-of-home caregiver the caregivers' role in maintaining and updating the Child's Resource Record.

Rulemaking Authority 39.012, 39.0121(3), (12), (13), 409.145(5), 409.165(3) FS. Law Implemented 39.522, 409.145, 409.165(4) FS. History—New 5-4-06, Amended 5-8-16.