

ON-GOING SERVICES

Moving a Child in Out-of-Home Placement

36-55-15

Policy The Department of Children and Families shall provide timely notice to a child's foster parent, if applicable, and to the child's attorney and guardian ad litem of any change in out-of-home placement.

Definition **Emergency** means a situation in which an immediate threat to the physical or emotional health or welfare of a child exists or is suspected and there is no means of temporarily alleviating the threat.

DCF Initiated Removal - Non Emergency For non-emergency removals from placement, DCF shall provide the following written notifications:

- to the foster parent of the child, at least ten calendar days before removal, of its decision to remove the child from the foster home, the reasons for the decision to remove the child and of the foster parent's right (if any) to request a removal hearing if the foster parent disagrees with the removal; and
- to the child's attorney and the child's guardian ad litem, if any, at least ten calendar days before removal, of its decision to remove the child from an out-of-home placement, the reasons for the decision to remove the child and the contact information for the new placement.

The child may be removed from the out-of-home placement prior to the ten day notice period if:

- an emergency develops; or
- the placement resource requests an earlier removal and no provisions can be made to maintain the child in the placement.

In all other cases, the child shall remain in the out-of-home placement until the expiration of the ten-day notice period.

DCF Initiated Removal - Emergency In the case of an emergency removal from out-of-home placement, DCF shall notify the foster parent, if applicable, and the child's attorney and GAL at the time of the removal or as soon thereafter as possible.

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**Written
Notification**

For foster parents, the Social Worker shall use the DCF-2082, "Notification to Foster Parent of a Child's Placement Change."

For attorneys and guardians ad litem, the Social Worker shall send a copy of the DCF-2082 via email to the office of the Supervising Public Defender at Pubdefdcfkids@jud.ct.gov.

A copy of the DCF-2082 shall also be sent to the DCF Administrative Hearings Unit at Central Office.

**Foster
Parent
Request for
Removal
Hearing**

A foster parent shall have ten days from the date of receipt of the DCF-2082 to request a removal hearing.

Removal hearings are conducted pursuant to DCF Policy 22-6-2 through 22-6-10.

**Request by
Out-of-Home
Placement
for Removal**

When the foster parent or other out-of-home placement resource requests that a child be removed, the Social Worker shall meet with the foster parent or other caregiver; the foster parent's FASU Social Worker, if applicable; the child; and, if appropriate, the child's parents:

- on the same day if the request is for immediate removal; or
 - within five working days, in all other situations.
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**Removal
Meeting**

Topics for the removal meeting shall include but not be limited to:

- the reason for the request for the child's removal;
- the impact upon the child of continuing the current placement;
- services that may be offered to maintain the placement;
- whether a respite placement is appropriate;
- if the child is to be removed, whether and under what conditions the child may remain in the placement pending a planned move; and
- if and how the caregiver will continue his or her relationship with the child.

The Social Worker shall document in LINK the results of the removal meeting including the reasons for all decisions made.

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**Follow-up
Activities by
Ongoing and
FASU Social
Workers**

If the placement can be maintained, the Social Worker shall arrange for the agreed-upon service(s).

If the outcome is to remove the child, the FASU Social Worker shall immediately begin the search for a new placement.

Counseling and support shall be provided to the child and the caregiver around issues of transition.

The Social Worker shall assist the child with issues of loss pertaining to the move to reduce the possibility of future placement failures.

A child who is old enough to understand the situation but was not present at the removal meeting shall be informed in person by the Social Worker of the reasons for the move. The child shall be provided with information about any planned new placement and have pre-placement visits.
