

## Treatment: Options For Placement

### Termination of a Voluntary Placement

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#### Policy

Termination of a voluntary placement may occur under specific conditions which ensure the parent(s) or guardian's legal rights and the safety and well-being of the child(ren).

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#### Procedure

Termination of a voluntary placement occurs under the following conditions:

- within twenty-four (24) hours of a parent's or guardian's request
  - by agreement of DCF and the parent(s) or guardian(s)
  - an Order of Temporary Custody has been issued which finds that it is not in the child's best interest to return home
  - the immediate return of the child would present such a level of danger to the child that a Ninety-Six (96) Hour Hold is needed to ensure the safety of the child.
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#### DCF Responsibility

The Social Worker shall:

- upon the receipt of a request by the parent(s) or guardian, return the child(ren) from a voluntary placement within twenty-four (24) hours, if no grounds exist to suggest this is not in the best interest of the child(ren)
- immediately file a petition with the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters if it is determined that the parent(s) or guardian is unwilling or unable to provide protection or meet the child(ren)'s basic needs
- notify the parent(s) or guardian of the decision to file petitions as soon as the decision has been reached, unless it is felt to jeopardize the safety or health of the child(ren).

Cross-reference: Refer to Notification to Parent(s)/Guardian (DCF-555), policy section 46-3-11.5.

- attempt to notify the parent(s) or guardian by telephone within twenty-four (24) hours of the decision to return the child(ren) and to follow this with written notification within thirty-six (36) hours
  - not hold the child from return from the parent(s) or guardian unless there is a court approval or an agreement with the parent(s) or guardian or their legal representative
  - update the request for voluntary placement and file this information in the legal section of the child's uniform case record.
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