

Treatment: Foster Care

At the Time of Placement

At the time of placement, the child's Social Worker shall

- meet with the foster family to confirm the appropriateness of the match and complete the process of placement
- provide for the child's special needs
- provide the foster parents with the child's Placement Portfolio which contains the information necessary for the care and supervision of the child.

Information about the child that is not available at the time of placement must be provided within thirty (30) days of the date of placement.

For emergency placements, information to meet the child's immediate needs shall be provided to the foster parents within twenty-four (24) hours, or one (1) working day, of the time the child is placed.

Cross-Reference: For the policies and procedures on the use of the Placement Portfolio, see Policy 36-50-2, "To Request and Make a Placement: Use of the Placement Portfolio".

Partnership with Foster Parents

The child's Social Worker needs to be a partner with the foster parents to ensure that each child receives the full spectrum of services provided and/or arranged by the Department.

Some aspects of this relationship include the following:

- sharing information on an ongoing basis regarding the child's individual needs, family situation and adjustment to the foster home
 - encouraging the foster parents to participate in the total service planning process
 - providing the foster parents the opportunity to discuss the child's progress and any unmet needs which they assess
 - providing the foster parent with information, support, guidance and referrals to other professionals on the child's behalf
 - helping the foster family, when necessary, to identify and obtain services for the foster child; e.g., medical, educational
 - ensuring that the foster family, on the child's behalf, has access to all financial resources available to the child while in foster care.
-