

State of New Mexico

CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

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PROGRAM INSTRUCTION GUIDELINE 10-2021-#19

TO: All PSD Staff
FROM: Emily Martin, Acting Protective Services Division Director
DATE: October 19, 2021
RE: RE-ISSUE Permanency Planning Update: PR 19—Visitation, Worker-Child Visit Guidance & PR 10—Out of Home Placement

The purpose of this Program Instruction Guideline (PIG) is to provide guidance to all PSD staff on the additions to Permanency Planning Procedure PR 19—Visitation & PR 10—Out of Home Placement. All changes are underlined in red.

All visitation must be conducted by a staff member that is known to the child. If the assigned caseworker is unable to perform a visit with a child, they (or their Supervisor) must arrange visitation by a staff member that is known to the child.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this instruction, please contact Serra Dittel-Payne, PSD Policy & Procedure Coordinator (Serra.Dittel-Payne@state.nm.us).

SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

PERMANENCY PLANNING PROCEDURES (8.10.8 NMAC)

PR 10 – OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT

- 10.6 Monthly Visits:** If the decision is to place a child or youth in an out of state congregate placement, the PSD Worker or Supervisor must visit the child monthly to assess the child/youth's safety and wellbeing and ensure the child/youth's needs are being met. When that is impossible, the PSD Worker's Supervisor may approve the monthly worker-child visit be conducted by a worker who has a relationship to the child/youth to assess the child/youth's safety and wellbeing and ensure the child/youth's needs are being met. [~~must arrange for monthly worker-child visits by the PSD assigned worker and is able to assess the child or youth's well being and ensure the child's or youth's needs are being met.~~] PSD Worker and Supervisor will ensure contact is maintained between the child and their family. [12-01-2020; 10-19-2021]

SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

PERMANENCY PLANNING PROCEDURES (8.10.8 NMAC)

PR 19 – VISITATION

11 WORKER-CHILD VISITS: [~~The PPW sees the child in their place of residence at least monthly, or more frequently as the needs of the child dictate.~~] The PPW or their Supervisor must visit the child in their place of residence at least monthly, or more frequently as the needs of the child dictate. These visits the PPW or their Supervisor assess the child/youth's safety and well-being and ensure the child/youth's needs are being met. When it is impossible for the PPW or their Supervisor to visit the child monthly, the Supervisor may approve the monthly worker-child visit be conducted by another PSD Worker who has a relationship to the child to assess the child/youth's safety and well-being and ensure the child/youth's needs are being met. A portion of the visit is spent with worker talking to the child alone without the interruption of others. This “alone time” provides the opportunity for the child to speak privately with worker to voice any concerns or discuss matters the child may not be comfortable speaking about with others in the home. This visitation is documented in FACTS. The visitation serves the following purposes:

1. to assess the safety of the child;
2. to review the case plan with the child as age appropriate;
3. to assess the needs of and services for the child;
4. to review the case plan with the foster care provider;
5. to assess the needs of and services for the foster care provider; and
6. to assess placement's stability. [09-29-15; 03-15-16; 02-12-18; 10-19-2021]