

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

March 8, 2019

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: CHILDREN'S DIVISION AND CONTRACTED STAFF

FROM: DAVID KURT, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: ALTERNATIVE CARE - PARENT HOME VISITS

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to communicate to staff the expectations for visiting parents of children in Alternative Care. Workers are expected to visit (in person) all parents of child in foster care each month. The majority of these visits must be in the parent's home. The parent's home is the place they are living, as defined by the parent.

Examples of the majority are:

- If a case has been opened 6 months during October 1 thru September 30, 4 out of the 6 required visits during that time frame must be in the parent's home.
- If a case has been open for only 2 months during the Federal Fiscal year, 2 visits must occur in the home as the majority of the visits are required in that setting.
- If a case has been opened 5 months, 3 of the visits held with the parent must be in the parent's home

Some notes about parent home visits:

- If a parent's rights have been terminated, they no longer are required to be visited. However, there may be situations such as with older youth, that visitation or contact with the that parent is warranted
- When a parent is incarcerated either locally or through the Department of Corrections, a phone call (including video calls) count as visits in that parent's home
- If a parent is living in a county outside of the case manager's county, the parent still must be visited in the home the majority of the time. This visit can be completed by a service worker if that arrangement has been made between the circuits.

The Child Welfare Manual has been updated to reflect this change.

NECESSARY ACTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division staff. 2. Review the update Child Welfare Manual Section. 3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to: 	
PDS CONTACT	MANAGER CONTACT
Jason Kearbey Jason.L.Kearbey@dss.mo.gov 417-895-6414	Ivy Doxley Ivy.Doxley@dss.mo.gov 573-526-1422
CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS	
Section 4, Chapter 7, Subsection 3.1	
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS	
N/A	
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES	
N/A	
RELATED STATUTE	
N/A	