



Practice Alert

Worker/Child Visits

Current CD policy requires case managers to visit children in foster care each month in the child's placement. Visits that occur in the home have many advantages such as being able to see the child's sleeping and living environment, seeing the child interact in their placement, and quick access to the placement provider to address any concerns.

In response to changing federal requirements, CD practice is changing to allow greater flexibility in the places case managers can visit with their kids. Case managers often visit their children in a variety of settings already (graduation, sporting, and other school events). This is an important part of engaging and building rapport with children, and aligns our practice of supporting children while they are engaging in normal activities appropriate for their age and developmental level.

Monthly worker with child visits can now be counted in a variety of locations, but the "majority" of those visits during the Federal Fiscal year (October 1 through September 30) must still occur in the child's placement. Children's Division receives federal funding as a result of reporting this information each year.

Examples:

- If a child is in foster care for 6 months during October 1 thru September 30, 4 out of the 6 required visits during that time frame must be in the child's placement.
- If a child is in foster care for only 2 months during the Federal Fiscal year, 2 visits must occur in their placement as the majority of the visits are required in that setting.
- If a child has been in foster care for 5 months, 3 of the visits held each month must be in the child's placement.

Worker with child visits held in settings outside of their placement must still constitute a quality visit. A quality visit with a child involves observations and conversation with the child related to their safety, well-being, their permanency plan and progress toward this plan. Interactions with younger children (age 0-5) should include observations and documentation of developmental milestones. Staff are encouraged to work with their local QA/QI staff to build methods to track worker visits with children and ensure that the majority of worker child visits are held in the child's placement.

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