

Practice Alert



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Issued by: Prevention and Safety Unit

PA22-CM-14

Maximum Length of a Temporary Alternative Placement Agreement (TAPA)

The purpose of this Practice Alert is to provide guidance on entering into a second TAPA if the goals of the initial TAPA cannot be accomplished within ninety (90) days and the child cannot yet be safely returned home.

A referral to the juvenile officer **must** be made as soon as possible, but no later than ten (10) days prior to the end date of the TAPA by submitting a CD-235. In the referral, staff may recommend a second TAPA instead of recommending removal. Additional TAPAs should rarely be needed for another full ninety (90) days. For example, a second TAPA may be requested if the relative has begun the process to obtain guardianship, but the court date will not occur prior to the end of the first ninety (90) days.

If there is good cause to enter into a second TAPA beyond the first ninety (90) days, a TDM must be held prior to the ninety (90) day expiration. The TDM should discuss and document the reasons for a second TAPA and how long the second TAPA will be needed. Staff must obtain approval from the Regional Director, or their designee, for any additional TAPAs beyond one hundred twenty (120) days. The initial TAPA and the second TAPA cannot exceed a total of one hundred eighty (180) days.

Entering a Second TAPA in FACES:

- On the Diversion/TAPA screen in FACES, enter the appropriate end date for each child on the first TAPA.
- The TAPA outcome on the first TAPA will be diverted to another caregiver (comment required). In the comment box, explain the reason for the second TAPA. This is a work around in FACES until a TAPA outcome of entering into a second TAPA is established.
- After the first TAPA has an end date, enter a second TAPA by going to the Diversion/TAPA screen and entering the DCN to add a new TAPA.
- The begin date for the second TAPA must be one day after the end date of the first TAPA.
- All of the required background checks **must** be completed again as this is a new TAPA. Enter the new dates for the second TAPA on the Diversion/TAPA screen in FACES. This includes the: FCSR check date, CA/N check date, case.net check date, walk-through date, and sex offender registry check date.
- The initial TDM date will be the TDM date where the decision was made to enter into a second TAPA.

To assist with tracking of the initial TAPA and the opening of a second TAPA in FACES, staff should utilize the Diversion/TAPA report in FACES. The Diversion/TAPA report can be found by going to the General Function page in FACES and selecting online reports.

See [Section 1, Chapter 9 \(Safety Planning\)](#) of the Child Welfare Manual for more information on Safety Planning and entering into a TAPA.

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