

Practice Alert



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Issued by: Crystal Wenger - PDS – AC

Diligent Search and Placement Guidance Policy Correction

An incorrect version of the diligent search policy located in the Child Welfare Manual (CWM), Section 4, Chapter 10 (Case Management Activities), Subsection 2 – Diligent Searches and Placement Guidance, was posted to the manual on 8-24-23. The policy was corrected on 9-14-23.

Incorrect information pertaining to preference of placement was inadvertently included and should at no time be relied upon as this formally rescinds the statement below:

“There shall be a preference of placement for a child to remain in a supportive foster family placement if the child has remained in that placement for a period of 6 months for a child under 3 years of age and 9 months for a child 3 years of age or older.”

Other revisions include additional guidance and information on the impact of criminal history on placement decisions and corrected links to revised statutes.

As a reminder, among the statutory changes effective August 28, 2023, there are specific requirements for CD to implement around diligent efforts to locate and place children with relatives. Memo CD23-23 *Legislation Affecting Children's Division* summarizes those statutory changes.

One of the primary changes is the requirement to submit a report to the Court within the first thirty days (and at every review hearing thereafter) outlining all diligent search efforts. The reporting requirements may be found in the CWM, Section 4, Chapter 10.2.3 – Documentation and Notice to the Court. A standardized diligent search reporting tool is being developed and will be forthcoming.

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