

# Memorandum

CDP26-03

**DATE:** April 3, 2026

**TO:** Children's Division and Foster Care Case Management

**FROM:** Sara Smith, Children's Division Director

**SUBJECT:** **Policy Updates regarding Missing Youth in Alternative Care**

**OVERVIEW:**

In order to provide clarity regarding processes and protocols for children missing from care, the following policies have been updated.

**CWM 4.4.8.8 Missing Youth Placed in Missouri under Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)**

This new policy:

- Clarifies that the missing youth protocol in [CWM 4.4.8.3](#) applies to children placed in Missouri through ICPC who go missing.
- Establishes roles between assigned worker and ICPC coordinator in this process.

**CWM 8.4.1.9 Posting Photos, Posters, and Alerts for Missing Status Children in Custody**

This policy replaces current CWM 8.4.1.9 policy and includes the following new subsections:

- CWM 8.4.1.9.1 Distribution of Postings in the Community-
  - Clarifies that missing child posters may be distributed by CD workers and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).
- CWM 8.4.1.9.2 Distribution of Social Media Postings
  - Specifies when and how CD workers may utilize social media sites to expedite efforts in locating a child.
- CWM 8.4.1.9.3 Distribution of Amber Alert Postings
  - Specifies when CD workers may coordinate with local law enforcement to request that a child or youth be placed on the Amber Alert System.

For questions or concerns, please contact:

Jessica Martin, Program Development Specialist, at [Jessica.Martin@dss.mo.gov](mailto:Jessica.Martin@dss.mo.gov)

Rachel Davis, Program Coordinator, at [Rachel.Davis2@dss.mo.gov](mailto:Rachel.Davis2@dss.mo.gov)

Christina Barnett, Deputy Director, at [Christina.Barnett@dss.mo.gov](mailto:Christina.Barnett@dss.mo.gov)

**CHILD WELFARE MANUAL POLICY AND COLLATERAL DOCUMENTATION:**

[CWM 4.4.8 Missing Person Report Procedure](#)

[CWM 8.4.1 Child Exploitation, Public Performance and Media Involvement](#)

**NECESSARY ACTION:**

- 1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division and Foster Care Case Management team members.*
- 2. Review Child Welfare Manual chapters and forms as indicated above.*