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Issue 23-19

Date: 12/18/23

Enhanced Communication and Coordination with Foster Family Agency (FFA) and FFA Resource Families

This FYI is being issued as a reminder of the importance of coordination between CSWs and FFAs for:

1. Coordinating FFA Resource Family in-person home visits
2. Family Time arrangements;
3. Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings;
4. Sharing changes that are made to youth case plans; and
5. Discussing placement rates with resource families.

COORDINATING FFA RESOURCE FAMILY IN PERSON HOME VISITS

While FFA resource parents receive added support from the addition of an FFA social worker, the frequency and nature of oversight visits from multiple entities may feel invasive within a family setting. Communicating and coordinating with FFA social workers when scheduling visits to resource family homes will minimize the disruption for children/youth and FFA resource families, when appropriate.

FAMILY TIME ARRANGEMENTS

It's important to communicate and coordinate with FFA social workers when scheduling family time and when there are changes to family time plans.. Family time, is an essential component to child welfare services and helps maintain and improve the parent-child attachment, reduce a child/youth's sense of abandonment, and preserves relationships with siblings and others who have a significant role in the child/youth's life. It is also important for the CSW, when appropriate, to encourage the child/youth's caregiver to communicate with the child/youth's parent/guardian regarding questions or concerns around family time arrangements, with a reminder that any safety concerns should be shared with the FFA and DCFS social workers,

Refer to [PG 0400-504.00, Family Time](#) for detailed information regarding the planning, coordination, and documentation of family time.



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CFT MEETINGS AND SHARING CHANGES MADE TO CHILD/YOUTH CASE PLANS

CSWs are to inform FFAs in a timely manner when CFT meetings are scheduled so that the FFA social worker can attend. CSWs are also to inform FFAs when any changes are made to child/youth's case plan. It is expected that all parents (biological parents, legal guardians, or adoptive parents) and children/youth be involved in case planning from the beginning of the process. Decisions regarding outcomes, goals, and tasks should collaboratively be made in the CFT, by the child/NMD, family, caregiver, other support systems identified by the family, CSW, FFA Social Worker, and other providers.

Refer to [PG 0080-502.10, Case Plans](#) for detailed information regarding case planning.

DISCUSSING REIMBURSEMENT RATES WITH RESOURCE FAMILIES

When discussing placement rates with resource families, it's important that the following information be provided, as applicable:

- Level of Care (LOC) RF rates,
- Kinship Guardianship (Kin-GAP) rates,
- Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) rates,
- Intensive Services rates,
- Infant Supplement/Whole Family Foster Home rates

Refer to [PG 0900-511.10, Rates for Placement and Related Services](#) for the most-up-to date rates and California Necessities Index (CNI) increases for each fiscal year. **Note that as of December 1, 2017, all resource families for children/youth entering into foster care receive the LOC rate. The rate received by resource families is based on the child/youth's LOC and is the same for FFA resource families and County caregivers, including relatives and non-relatives.**

If you have any questions regarding this release, please e-mail your question to:

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