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Issue 24-07

Date: 05/31/24

PHOTOS OF CHILDREN/YOUTH

Photographs help to maintain a history of children's life changes while they are away from their family, friends, and neighborhoods.

In addition to taking pictures for documenting in the file, CSWs are encouraged to help capture the child's moments as they grow (i.e. attendance at a holiday event, a quinceañera, celebration, or other DCFS hosted events). CSWs are also encouraged to talk to parents and resource parents about capturing moments during family time when they are spending time together, and for resource parents to capture photos. These pictures should be regularly uploaded to KidPix.

Benefits of Photo Records of Life Events

- Help the CSW, resource parent, birth parent, and child form an alliance
- Create meaningful conversation
- Help children/youth understand their life events
- Give a child/youth a clearer sense of their life story
- Provide a vehicle for children/youth to share their life histories with others
- Increase a child/youth's self-esteem by recording their growth and development
- Help the child/youth's birth family share in the time when they are living apart
- Contribute to an adoptive family's understanding of the child/youth's past
- Reduce fantasy about birth parents
- Create a positive identity and/or positive ethnic identity

Photographs of children can also be used in the recovery of missing and exploited children.

For all newly opened cases, a digital photograph of all children must be taken. The child's photograph needs to be updated at least yearly and uploaded to KidPix.

Related Policy Guides

• <u>Policy Guide 1200-500.50 - Photographic Identification of Children</u> provides guidelines for when and how to take photographs of children for identification purposes.

Reminders:

• Children's Social Workers and Human Services Aides can take the child's photograph

If you have any questions regarding this release, please e-mail your question to: <u>Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov</u> (right click to open footer section and access link)





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- Photographs should only be taken on county issued devices (must be clear and good quality)
- Pictures are to be properly secured, uploaded to KidPix within 3 business days of date taken
- Once uploaded, the picture should be deleted from the county issued device

How to Access KidPix

KidPix can be accessed by logging on to The SITE. It is a resource that can be used to add an unlimited number of photos.

- Under Continuing Services, you can click "CS Utilization Case Plan and Kid Pix" or "CS Utilization Children Out of Home Care & Kid Pix".
- Once you click on the KidPix Link, you have to choose the SPA, Office, CSW File number, and child you want to upload a photo for.
 - o There, it will have an option to "add Photo".
 - Drill down all the way from the SB level to the Office level to the File # then down to the specific child:
 - When you do and click on the child's first name, you'll then see there is a page to upload a picture.
 - You will also see there is a KidPix user manual that explains how to upload photos on page 3.

The user manual can be found here: <u>https://dcfs-intra-kidpix-web-service.azurewebsites.net/help/KidPix.pdf</u>

