



# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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**Issue** 24-23

**Date:** 12/31/24

### **POLICY AND FYI RELEASE UPDATE – FOURTH QUARTER 2024**

This policy release update provides staff with a summary of new/revised guides and FYIs posted on LA Kids during the fourth quarter of 2024.

#### **Policy Guides:**

[0300-508.30 Identifying and Notifying the Court of Recurring Efforts to Locate Relatives and Nonrelative Extended Family Members \(NREFMs\) | Revision Date: 10/1/2024](#)

This policy guide was updated to incorporate collaboration with the Family Finding and Engagement Program (FFEP) CSW, in the investigation to identify and locate a child’s adult relatives and nonrelative extended family members (NREFMs), when one is assigned to a child’s case.

[0200-508.10 Relinquishment Procedures and the Statement of Understanding | Revision Date: 10/10/2024](#)

This policy guide was updated to provide guidance to staff about Emergency Response investigations where a parent or parents indicate that they intend to voluntarily relinquish rights to their child.

[0300-503.15 Writing a Status Review Hearing Report for a WIC Section 364, 366.21\(e\) or \(f\), 366.22, or 366.25 Hearing | Revision Date: 10/11/2024](#)

This policy guide was updated to incorporate the requirements of Assembly Bill (AB) 2866 which increased the standard of evidence at the six-month, 12-month and any subsequent permanency review hearings to “clear and convincing” evidence. This revision also clarifies that ARA signature is required for high-risk cases when DCFS recommendation is to terminate jurisdiction, a person’s sealed juvenile offense record should not be included in DCFS court reports, more detailed language for documenting Family Time, and that DCFS has a duty to inquire about Native American heritage even when the court has previously made a “No ICWA” finding.

[0070-548.30 Bringing Families Home | Revision Date: 11/14/2024](#)

This policy was updated to include additional referral pathways at Bringing Families Home program entry, safety concerns when adding additional household members during and after case closure, and an update to the homeless definition utilized for Bringing Families Home program eligibility, per AB 120. Lastly, program eligibility for parents/legal guardians receiving Enhancement Services was also clarified.

[1000-501.30 Dependency Investigation \(DI\) Assignment Criteria | Revision Date: 11/14/2024](#)

This policy guide was updated to revise several DI assignment criteria.

[0070-548.26, Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths \(CANS\) Assessment | Revision Date: 11/26/2024](#)

This policy guide was updated to include information about Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment for WIC 342 and 388, and current practice.

[1200-500.10 Vital Records \(Birth, Death, Marriage, and Divorce\) | Revision Date: 11/26/2024](#)

This policy guide was updated to include information from All County Letter (ACL) 19-103, which allows youth in foster care to be eligible to receive a fee-exempt certified record of live birth (birth certificate) if the youth is currently in foster care and the foster care status can be verified. The policy also updates existing procedures for how to obtain vital records and how to get documents notarized.



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## [1200-500.05 Providing Services to Children Under the Indian Child Welfare Act \(ICWA\) | Revision Date: 12/4/2024](#)

This policy guide was updated to incorporate new ICWA changes including Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), Section 224.2 which establishes an affirmative and continuous duty to inquire whether a child who is placed into the temporary custody of DCFS is or may be American Indian, and instructions from ACLs 22-95 and 23-46 for documenting ICWA Inquiry results in CWS/CMS. The title of the policy has been changed from Adopting and Serving Children Under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) to Providing Services to Children Under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

## [1000-504.10 Case Transfer Criteria and Procedures | Revision Date: 12/5/2024](#)

This policy guide was updated to include specific transfer requirements on the Case Transfer Guide: When and Where to Transfer attachment as well as under the section "Circumstances to Transfer a Case". This version also includes updated transfer protocols for AB12 and MCMS Section case transfers.

## [0100-510.61 Placement Responsibilities | Revision Date: 12/4/2024](#)

This policy guide was updated to include instructions on submitting the Foster Care Search System (FCSS) Automated 280 for several placement change situations, and timeframes to do so. This version includes updated information and procedures regarding the Foster Youth Bill of Rights (FYBOR).

## [0200-511.06 Adoption Assistance Program \(AAP\) Level of Care \(LOC\) Rate Determination and Re-Determination | Issued Date: 12/11/2024](#)

This policy guide provides information on how to apply the Adoption Assistance Program Level of Care (LOC) Protocols to determine the rate for an eligible child in accordance to ACL 21-54. This policy works in conjunction with policy 0200-511.05, Adoption Assistance Program Benefits and Medi-Cal Benefits, policy 0900-522.00, Level of Care (LOC) and Specialized Care Increment (SCI) Rate Determinations/Redeterminations, and policy 0900-511.12, Dual Agency Rates.

## [0070-535.10 Assessment of Exploitation | Revision Date: 12/18/2024](#)

This policy guide was updated from the 9.1.21 version, to include information on four new Statewide Special Project Codes (SPCs) which can be utilized to document the labor trafficking of children in the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS).

## [0300-503.20 Writing the WIC 366.26 Hearing Report | Revision Date: 12/24/2024](#)

This policy guide was updated to provide CSWs guidance regarding a parent's ability to present evidence at a WIC 366.26 hearing in an effort to establish the parental-benefit exception (Caden C.) to avoid termination of parental rights, pursuant to WIC 366.26(c)(1)(B)(i) or one of the other exceptions listed in said code.

### **FYIs:**

#### [FYI 24-18, Hague Notice and International Noticing Tips](#)

The FYI is to inform staff that El Salvador now is a country that requires Hague notice.

#### [FYI 24-19, Rates for Placement and Related Services for Fiscal Year 2024-25](#)

The purpose of this FYI is to provide staff with the adjusted schedule of rates that reflect the California Necessities Index (CNI) increase of 4.32 percent for fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 effective July 1, 2024. The CNI rate increase is applicable to out-of-home placements and the Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care program and to the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) rates.



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## [FYI 24-20, Guidance on Senate Bill \(SB\) 463 Factors to Consider When Assessing Parental Reunification](#)

This FYI provides guidance when assessing whether or not it is safe to return a child to their parent's custody. Senate Bill 463 eliminates the previous presumption that a parent's lack of compliance with their court ordered treatment program is, in itself, detrimental to the safety, protection, or physical or emotional well-being of the child.

## [FYI 24-21, Tips for Teaching Children, Youth, and Families About Gender Equality and Equity](#)

This FYI outlines helpful and practical advice/tips to DCFS staff on introducing the concept of gender equality and equity to children, youth and families, and approaching the topic in a safe and informative, and inclusive way.

## [FYI 21-04 \(REV\), Substance Use Disorder – Trauma-Informed Parent Support Program, Including Use of Client Engagement and Navigation Services](#)

This FYI was revised to provide new contact information for Spa 7 and updated SUD referral form.

## [FYI 24-22, Faith-Based \(FB\) Reminders](#)

This FYI provides a reminder to staff about the importance of preserving a child's culture and religious or faith identity, including their right to practice their faith and attend religious services, and the potential involvement of a child and family's faith-based practitioner or community support persons. This FYI also provides information and tips on assessing for and engaging a child and family in accessing faith-based resources.

If you have any questions regarding this release, please email your question to:

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