



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 25-19

Date: 10/01/2025

POLICY AND FYI RELEASE UPDATE – THIRD QUARTER 2025

This policy release update provides staff with a summary of new/revised guides and FYIs posted on LA Kids during the third quarter of 2025.

Policy Guides:

[0600-508.00, Supporting Foster Youth at Risk or Suspected of Substance Use | Revision Date: 07/03/2025](#)

This policy guide was updated to include information on different ways to support a child/youth with substance use disorders, update information on consent, and include an array of referral pathways for treatment linkage. This policy also provides information on different models for substance use treatment for youth, information on different cross-system collaborations, and updated procedures.

[0100-520.35, Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment \(Kin-GAP\) Program | Revision Date: 07/29/2025](#)

This policy guide has been updated to include information on Federal and State financial determination, an update on the definition of a relative for Federal Kin-GAP, and information on cases that are not suitable for Kin-GAP. This version also includes procedural updates for earlier submission of the Kin-GAP referral packet to ensure prompt payment and to prevent overpayment. The Kin-GAP Referral Checklist attachment is included, which is an updated list of all required documents needed to initiate Kin-GAP payment.

[1200-500.80, Service Linkages between the Department of Public Social Services \(DPSS\) and DCFS | Revision Date: 07/29/2025](#)

This policy guide was updated to address Assembly Bill (AB) 135, AB 236, All County Letter (ACL) 18-71 and ACL 23-94, which authorize the provision of cash aid and child care services to participating California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Family Reunification (FR) families for up to six (6) months, and the provision of Temporary Homeless Assistance (THA) for eligible identified FR families.

[0100-570.05 Quality of Life in Out-of-Home Care | Revision Date: 7/30/2025](#)

This policy guide was updated to include clarification on the Foster Youth Bill of Rights as it pertains to visits and contact with individuals other than family.

[0100-520.00 Resource Family Approval \(RFA\) | Revision Date: 7/30/2025](#)

This policy was revised due to amendments to Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 16519.5 which establishes exemption criteria for eligible caregivers from completing the resource family approval first aid training requirement. Also, information was included about obtaining a California Department of Motor Vehicles report, and equivalent report from any other state that issued the individual's driver's license, of each applicant and all adults residing or regularly present in the home who may frequently transport children or nonminor dependents. Information regarding videotaping was added from All County Letter (ACL) 24-50. Effective 07/01/24, the timeframe for completing resource family approval changed from ninety days (90) to one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days. The criminal exemption section was removed and a link to the criminal exemptions policy was added. Further, the policy was updated to reflect current practice.



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[0080-507.22 Family Finding and Engagement Program \(FFEP\) | Revision Date: 8/7/2025](#)

This policy guide was updated to include information regarding collaboration between the Family Finding and Engagement Program (FFEP) CSW and the Continuing Services (CS) CSW in the investigation to identify and locate a child's adult relatives and nonrelative extended family members (NREFMs). Additions were also made to further comply with documenting and reporting family finding efforts to the court, as a result of Assembly Bill (AB) 2929.

[0100-525.10 Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children \(ICPC\) | Revision Date: 8/7/2025](#)

This policy guide was updated to include current practice and procedures. Also, information was added regarding a Children's Social Worker's (CSW's) responsibilities for managing and monitoring ICPC cases.

[0100-535.25 Extended Foster Care \(EFC\) Program | Revision Date: 8/12/2025](#)

This policy guide was updated to include changes to extended foster care eligibility determination. In addition, information regarding Regional Center consumers was added.

[1000-504.75 Intercounty Transfer \(ICT\) | Revision Date: 8/13/2025](#)

This policy guide was updated to incorporate the statewide protocols in the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) Inter-County Transfer (ICT) Protocol, effective January 16, 2025, for use by all counties.

[0300-508.30 Identifying and Notifying the Court of Recurring Efforts to Locate Relatives and Nonrelative Extended Family Members \(NREFMs\) | Revision Date: 8/13/2025](#)

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. Additions were also made to further comply with documenting and reporting family finding efforts to the court, as a result of Assembly Bill (AB) 2929.

[0100-570.11 Missing or Absent from Care Children/Nonminor Dependents | Revision Date: 8/15/2025](#)

This policy guide has been updated to update notice requirements for a missing child/nonminor dependent to include notice to their Indian custodian and sibling dependent age ten (10) years or older, per AB 2108.

[0070-559.10 Clearances | Revision Date: 9/18/2025](#)

This policy guide was updated to include current practice. Also, the state no longer maintains a registry for Adam Walsh, so this information was deleted from the policy.

[1200-500.20 Child Passenger Restraint/Car Seat Requirements | Revision Date: 9/25/2025](#)

This policy was updated to include information about staff using Department issued child restraint systems to transport a child and not using their personal child restraint system.

[0080-505.11 Independent Living Program | Issued Date: 9/26/2025](#)

This new policy was developed to differentiate the obligations related to the provision of transition to adulthood services as distinct from Independent Living Program Services. While the details of provision of transition to adulthood services can be found in the related Transitional Independent Living Planning Policy (0080-505.10), this policy aims to provide information regarding the Independent Living Program (ILP) and its funding process.



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[0080-505.10 Transitional Independent Living Planning | Revision Date: 9/26/2025](#)

This policy guide was updated to clarify the obligations related to the provision of transition to adulthood services as distinct from Independent Living Program (ILP) Services. A new policy, 0080-505.11, Independent Living Program has been created to provide details regarding ILP. This version was also updated to clarify the language regarding the timeframe for completion of the Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP), and to update TILP requirements to reflect new state and federal law. This version makes the connection between the TILP process and requirements, and the obligations laid out in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 391, which are detailed in DCFS policy 0100-535.60. Lastly, this version also adds information regarding the 6-Month Transition Plan and adds information regarding referring to campus-based support programs.

FYIs:

[FYI 25-07 \(REV\), Social Media Searches](#)

The purpose of this FYI is to identify the staff that will be conducting Due Diligence/Family Finding searches for investigation purposes as well as to include the procedure by which investigative social media searches should be conducted.

[FYI 25-12, Reminder about Addressing Transition for Children, Youth, and Nonminor Dependents \(NMDs\) placed in a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program \(STRTP\) to a Least Restrictive Setting in Status Review Hearing Reports](#)

The purpose of this FYI is to remind staff that Status Review Hearing Reports for children/youth/NMDs in Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) must address transition planning to a less restrictive environment. If the child/youth/NMD is in an STRTP, the report must include justification for continued placement in an STRTP, that the placement aligns with short and long-term goals, and ongoing DCFS efforts toward permanency.

[FYI 25-14, Response to a Complaint Allegation of a County Approved Resource Parent](#)

The purpose of this FYI is to inform staff that DCFS will take over Complaint Investigations (CIs) of approved Resource Families from Community Care Licensing (CLC), using the same protocols, to ensure continuity and minimize disruption to current practices. These investigations will involve unannounced visits, collaboration among CSWs, and result in findings with possible corrective action plans.

[FYI 23-09 \(REV\), Respite Care Services](#)

The purpose of this FYI is to inform staff that respite care provides caregivers with substitute care and temporary relief from the responsibilities of foster parenting. Respite care providers may receive reimbursement from DCFS at a flat rate of \$16.90 per child, per hour, for a limit of 72 hours per fiscal year (July 1-June 30), with a maximum amount of \$1,216.80. Providers must meet certain eligibility criteria to qualify as respite care providers.

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

The purpose of this revised FYI is to inform staff of the updated SUD-TIPS Referral Form and to remind staff that the Referral Form needs to be sent via encrypted email to the Client Engagement and Navigation Services (CENS) area office sites.



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[FYI 25-15, Rates for Placement and Related Services](#)

The purpose of this FYI is to provide staff with the adjusted schedule of rates that reflect the California Necessities Index (CNI) increase of 3.42 percent for fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 effective July 1, 2025. 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.

[FYI 25-16, Employee Educational Work Release Program \(EEWRP\)](#)

The purpose of this FYI is to inform staff that the Education and Licensure Section is hosting virtual informational meetings for DCFS employees interested in pursuing a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Social Work. These sessions will cover general information on the Employee Educational Work Release Program (EEWRP), eligibility requirements, application processes, and university partnerships.

[FYI 25-03 \(REV\), Children's Law Center \(CLC\) Peer Advocates](#)

This FYI provides information regarding the CLC Peer Advocates Program. It is a resource for youth advocacy, sponsored by the Children's Law Center. The Peer Advocate Program is designed to work with the assigned youth to provide assistance in case management and guidance to the youth, and their goal is to become a member of the youth's treatment team in order to help them successfully transition out of the foster care system. This FYI was revised to inform staff of a new Standing Court Order issued on August 25, 2025, which authorizes that Children's Law Center be given all access to the child's records.

[FYI 25-18, Outstation Agreement Procedures](#)

This FYI provides information regarding DCFS partnerships with non-County entities (e.g., schools, clinics, police stations, etc.) to provide onsite services by Children's Social Workers (CSWs). These services require utilizing specific real estate, which is provided at no cost to the County, via two (2) types of agreements: License and Operational Agreements for dedicated workspaces, and Operational Agreements for occasional, shared use. Typically, these agreements are limited to small work areas such as classrooms, small offices, cubicles, conference rooms and meeting rooms.

Management Directives (MD):

[MD 25-02, Train-the-Trainer](#)

As a result of the County of Los Angeles Department of Auditor Controller – Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) System Development Review this new management directive was created to allow DCFS to have a policy/directive that provides information on the Train-the-Trainer program for ITS- developed applications/projects.

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

Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov