



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 26-06

Date: 03/31/2026

POLICY AND FYI RELEASE UPDATE – FIRST QUARTER 2026

This policy release update provides staff with a summary of new/revised guides and FYIs posted on LA Kids during the first quarter of 2026.

Policy Guides:

[0300-306.80 Shelter Care and Transportation Requests to Bring Children/ Youth/Nonminor Dependents to Court | Revision Date: 1/23/2026](#)

This policy was updated to reflect a change in the availability of court transportation services to youth/Nonminor Dependents (NMDs) placed with relatives and Non-Related Extended Family Members (NREFMs).

[0600-501.09 Consent for Mental Health and/or Developmental Assessments and Services | Revision Date: 2/13/2026](#)

This policy was updated to incorporate information from Assembly Bill (AB) 622, to enable minors age twelve (12) and older to consent to outpatient mental health treatment or counseling without meeting the prior higher-risk criteria. This policy guide also adds information on consent forms for NMDs and adds the option to submit a JV-535 Order Designating Educational Rights Holder in lieu of a redacted minute order when requesting developmental services for a child or NMD. This version clarifies that minors cannot consent to developmental assessments regardless of their age. The “Recommendation for Court Order for Mental Health and/or Developmental Assessment, Services and Release of Information” attachment was also updated.

[0100-510.10 Placement Capacity | Revision Date: 3/5/2026](#)

This policy guide was updated to add documentation requirements for the Assistant Regional Administrator (ARA) when approving or denying placement of a child under the age of three (3) years old in a home in which there are already two (2) children under the age of three (3) years old. This policy guide also provides clarification practices on when to seek placement/capacity changes. The “Emergency Request to Reactivate or Change Capacity and/or Request Capacity Waivers” form ([DCFS 732](#)) was also updated.

[0300-303.15 Writing the Initial Hearing Report | Revision Date: 3/26/2026](#)

This policy guide (formerly titled: “Writing the Detention Report”) was updated to correct the age of children who need to attend court, update the hearing timeframes for non-detained petitions and to reflect the accurate deadline for submitting initial petitions to court.

[E080-0520 Address Change | Revision Date: 1/21/2026](#)

This policy guide was updated to reflect current Eligibility Worker (EW) procedures and align them with the implementation of the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS).

FYIs:

[FYI 26-02, Referring Individuals to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs \(MVA\)](#)

The purpose of this FYI is to inform staff of the availability of services available to qualifying individuals through the Los Angeles County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA).



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[FYI 26-03 \(REV\), Supervised Independent Living Placement Approvals, Supervised Independent Living Settings, And Temporary Absences from Transitional Housing Programs](#)

This purpose of this FYI is to inform staff of updates from ACL 21-95 including expansion of Supervised Independent Living (SIL) settings, Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP), allowance for a Transitional Housing Program (THP), and Department's responsibilities in conducting an evaluation of the County's placement resources. Revisions were made to update the inbox for document submission and to notify that, effective 01/23/2026, the rate increased from \$37 to \$42.

[FYI 26-04, Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) in the Workplace](#)

The Purpose of this FYI is to provide guidance on the appropriate use of generative AI in the workplace. It emphasizes that AI tools must not be used with confidential or sensitive information, including case-related materials.

[FYI 26-05, Engagement with Incarcerated Parents](#)

The purpose of this FYI is to inform staff on the availability of resources and services available to incarcerated parents, including training resources, related policies, locating incarcerated parents, services offered by facilities for parents while incarcerated, and services connected to DCFS for parents while incarcerated. Staff are directed to ensure services, case planning, and contact opportunities are accessible and appropriate for incarcerated parents.

Management Directives (MD):

[MD 26-01, Peer Support Program](#)

This is a new Management Directive in support of the department's existing workplace violence prevention and health/safety programs. This MD provides an overview of the Peer Support Program, to help DCFS employees more effectively cope with exposures to Potentially Traumatizing Events (PTEs). It outlines procedures, roles, and interventions designed to reduce the impact of trauma and support employee well-being through structured peer support services.

[MD 02-08 \(REV\), Requests to Obtain and/or Inspect Public Records](#)

This Management Directive was revised to reflect updated Government Codes related to the California Public Records Act. Additionally, formatting, addresses, email contacts, and office names were updated for accuracy and consistency.

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

Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov