



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 26-15

Date: 07/31/26

FAMILY PRESERVATION / FAMILY REUNIFICATION (FP/FR) SERVICES-NOW OFFERED FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO REUNIFICATION

This FYI is to inform staff that Family Preservation/Family Reunification (FP/FR) services are now offered for up to six months prior to reunification and to provide guidance on how to assess a parent's readiness for these services.

Beginning in September 2024, the Family Preservation (FP) Program broadened its eligibility criteria for families receiving Family Reunification (FR) services in an effort to more quickly resolve identified safety threats or risk factors so children can safely return home. Previously, families could only receive FP/FR services for three months; however, FP/FR services are now available to families for six months prior to reunification.

FP/FR services include:

Weekly visits by FP In-Home Outreach Counselors (IHOCs) with parents to offer practical support by linking parents to services as well as offering guidance during Family Time to strengthen parenting skills. (Children are required to be present during at least two of those weekly visits per month and a visitation schedule, including transportation arrangements, must be established before referring the family to FP/FR services.) IHOCs provide ongoing feedback to staff regarding their observations of a family's strengths, protective actions and needs.

Assessment of a Parent's readiness for Family Preservation/Family Reunification Services

FP/FR services are for parents who are actively engaged in their FR case plan, as indicated by parents taking necessary actions to address the identified safety threats and/or risk factors.

Consider the following assessment questions when assessing a parent/s readiness:

- Does the parent/s acknowledge DCFS' safety worry (reason for DCFS involvement)?
- Is the parent/s actively engaged in their case plan/court orders (i.e., visitation, drug testing, counseling, etc.) AND demonstrating they are taking steps towards making needed changes?
- Does the parent/s demonstrate insight into how their dangerous behavior has impacted their child(ren)?
- What is the current Family time/visitation order? Does DCFS have authorization to liberalize Family Time/visits?
- Is there a clear Family Time/visitation schedule outlining Family Time/visits between parent(s) and child(ren)?
- Does the parent/s agree to participate in weekly in-home visits with the IHOC?



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- Does the parent/s agree to participate in a Child and Family Team (CFT) or Multi-Disciplinary Case Planning Committee (MCPC) meeting to help coordinate the parent/child Family Time/visits with clear safety goals, mutually agreed upon action steps and ways to support reunification efforts?

When referring families to Family Preservation/Family Reunification (FP/FR) Services

Role of the CSW/SCSW

- Submit the DCFS 800/[802](#) in Family Centered Services (FCS). Clearly specify the reason for DCFS involvement. Include specific facts regarding the dangerous behaviors and impact on child(ren) and protective actions needed from parent to promote the liberalization of Family Time/visits.
- Provide the Family Time/visitation schedule detailing Family Time/visits between parent(s) and child(ren), and assist the FP agency with the coordination of FP visits between the parent and child(ren).
- Plan to attend CFT/MCPC(s) meeting and an in-home weekly FP visit with parent and child within the first month of assignment.
- Be available to FP agency for consultation if any concerns arise during FP/FR services.

Role of Community Based Liaison (CBL)

Screen requests for FP/FR services and facilitate staff engagement with regional staff if there are questions regarding a family's eligibility. CBL screening of DCFS 800 to include:

- Dangerous behavior and its impact on a child (specific facts - reason for DCFS involvement);
- Confirmation of parents' active efforts in their process of change, such as clean drug tests, verification of participation in court ordered services, etc.
- Current Family Time/visitation status and court orders and if DCFS has authority to liberalize Family Time/visits;
- Expectations for parent/child Family Time/visits and anticipated timeline for liberalization of Family Time/visits or return to home, and
- Confirmation of CSW/SCSW's availability to participate in Family Team meetings/MCPCs.

Role of Family Preservation Program

- Family Preservation Specialist is available for consultation regarding a parent's eligibility for FP/FR services and to address any questions or concerns with FP agencies' provision of FP/FR services.
- FP Program Manager approval needed for any FP visits outside of the family home to accommodate parent/child Family Time to support the transition to in-home visits. Family Time/visits occurring outside the home should be considered a short-term intervention, which



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should not exceed two months, and may occur in a variety of settings, such as a relative's home, or a local park, etc.

To learn more about the Family Preservation Program, visit the website at the following links:
[Family Preservation – Community-Based Support Division](#) and see [Family Preservation Fact Sheet](#).

If you have any questions regarding this release, please email your question to:
Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov