

## **Visitation Policy Highlights**

July 21, 2004

*Frequent, purposeful visitation is central to promoting safety, permanence, and well-being.*

### **Visits with Families Receiving In-Home Services** (refer to the Visitation Policy for more information)

- ◆ **Goal of visiting twice per month, but a minimum of once per month**
- ◆ Every visit to include a private visit with the child for whom abuse or neglect is substantiated (except when the child is less than 18 months old)
- ◆ During visits:
  - Assess safety.
  - Ensure children's needs are being met.
  - Assess progress on the case plan and initiate updates through discussions with parent(s).
- ◆ Document the details of the visit in FACES.NET within 24 hours of the visit.

### **Visits with Children in Out-of-Home Care**

- ◆ **In the first 8 weeks in out-of-home care or a new placement, a minimum of once per week; thereafter, a minimum of once every 2 weeks**
- ◆ Every visit to include a private visit with the child (except when the child is less than 18 months)
- ◆ Children placed more than 100 miles outside of DC shall have a social worker from the receiving state supervise the placement through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), but the CFSA or contracted-agency social worker shall call the social worker from the receiving state monthly, when possible, and call the child monthly, when he or she has a relationship with the child, and visit with the child face-to-face at least twice per year.
- ◆ During visits:
  - Assess safety.
  - Ensure children's needs are being met.
  - Assess progress on the case plan and initiate updates.
  - Discuss upcoming events and children's concerns.
- ◆ Document the details of the visit in FACES.NET within 24 hours of the visit.

### **Visits with Parents of Children in Out-of-Home Care**

- ◆ **When the goal is reunification, visit the parent(s) in the home a minimum of twice per month in the first 3 months post-placement; After the first 3 months, for as long as the goal remains reunification, visit a minimum of once per month.**
- ◆ During visits:
  - Ensure progress on the child and family plans.
  - Assist in attaining needed resources.
  - Affirm progress and discuss issues.
  - Discuss any health needs or appointments for the child.
- ◆ Document the details of the visit in FACES within 24 hours of the visit.

### **Visits Between Children in Out-of-Home Care and Their Families**

- ◆ **When the goal is reunification, visits shall be a minimum of once per week, unless the child's best interest (documented in the case plan) requires less frequent visitation.**
- ◆ **When the goal is not reunification, visits are based on the child's best interest.** If reasons are identified for visits to be limited or denied, present a recommendation to the Court for a determination.
- ◆ **Visits between siblings shall be a minimum of twice per month.**
- ◆ Visits shall be in the parent's home, unless there are reasons against it documented in the record. In all cases, visits shall be in the most family-like setting possible.
- ◆ CFSA may request that the Court deny or limit visitation with individuals if in the child's best interest.
- ◆ Document the details of the visit in FACES within 24 hours of the visit.