

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES
STANDARDS FOR EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

STANDARDS FOR OUT-OF-HOME CARE SERVICES

6.9 PLACEMENT DISRUPTIONS

Council on Accreditation Standards

The Council on Accreditation Standards S21 (Foster and Kinship Services) and S21.3 (Permanency) link to and support Standard 6.9 *Placement Disruptions*.

Administrative Code

The Ohio Administrative Code Rule 5101:2-42-88 (Requirements for Substitute Care Placement Disruptions) addresses Standard 6.9 *Placement Disruptions*.

I. Philosophy

CFSA's should aspire to minimize placement disruptions for all children who must be placed in out-of-home care. Placement disruptions exacerbate the initial trauma experienced by foster children. In addition, foster families are affected by the disruption. Concentrating efforts on preserving placements benefit the children, their families and foster families.

II. Outcome

Children remain in their foster home without any disruptions.

III. Evaluation

FACSIS events, CPOE and the Federal Health and Human Services outcomes may be considered when evaluating this standard. In addition, the CFSA may consider the following:

- number of children with no moves while in foster care;
- number of children with one or less moves while in foster care;
- number of children with two or more moves while in foster care;
- number of unplanned disruptions/moves per year;
- number of planned disruptions/moves per year;
- the number of respites requested by and provided to foster families per year;
- number of children placed in foster homes close to or in their birth family's neighborhood;
- the number of family case conferences and team decision making meetings held to discuss and update the child and family assessment at key decision-making points with the family, foster family, service providers, family support persons and agency staff present;
- number of family team meetings each foster family attends;
- number of family team meetings agency holds per child per year;
- number of grievances filed by foster parents per year;
- number of licenses terminated per year;
- number of licenses revoked per year.

IV. Standards for Implementation

- 1) The CFSA should follow Standard 6.1, *Placement of Children in Out-of-Home Care* when placing a child in an out-of-home care setting.
- 2) Every agency should have a process for identifying a possible disruption. If a team member requests a change of placement or identifies indicators of disruption with the placement, a joint meeting (Team Decision Making meeting, see Standard 3.10, *Team Decision Making*) should be held to discuss methods/services for preserving the placement or making a planful move. At minimum, the foster parents, agency caseworker, foster care caseworker, youth and family shall be invited to participate in this meeting. All members should be strongly encouraged to participate in the meeting and voice their feelings about preserving the placement.
- 3) The CFSA should provide services that support and assist the foster family to prevent or reduce potential disruptions (see Standard 6.8, *Supports for Foster Caregivers*). Services may include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. conduct Team Decision Making meetings prior to removal, after removal and at other significant events (see Standard 3.10, *Team Decision Making*) to aid in making planful placements and if needed, placement moves;
 - b. support groups;
 - c. mentoring program linking the experienced foster caregiver(s) with those newly licensed;
 - d. ongoing home visits and support with the foster family and child;
 - e. respite;
 - f. agency and/or foster parent newsletter.
- 4) The CFSA should have a mechanism for monitoring placement utilization and disruptions in order to aid the agency in maintaining and improving the quality of services. Factors examined for program enhancement may include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. general disruption statistics;
 - b. reasons for disruption, including moves to more/least restrictive settings, interaction between foster families and birth families, location of foster family in relation to birth family's location, regular home visits with foster family;
 - c. factors that reflect agency's program, including rates of foster parent grievances; utilization and effectiveness of supportive services for caregivers; license termination and revocation.

V. Financial Implications

Costs associated with Standard 6.9, *Placement Disruptions* are discussed elsewhere, except for:

Maintaining disruption, grievance statistics(annually)
 40 hours x \$89.25/hour = \$3,570

The cost of support groups, mentoring programs, etc. are discussed under Standard 6.8, *Supports for Foster Caregivers*.