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Policy

SUBJECT:

Confirming Safe Environments Instrument

Effective Date	Amendment Number	Amendment Effective Date
April 17, 2019	N/A	N/A

SCOPE:

Ongoing formal safety assessment of out-of-home placements that is subsequent to the initial child placement assessment.

SPECIFIC LEGAL and OTHER REFERENCES:

[NAC 424](#)

[NAC 424.600](#)

[NAC 432B](#)

[NRS 424](#)

[NRS 424.044](#)

[NRS 432B](#)

PROGRAMS IMPACTED:

Child Protective Services

Intake

Permanency

Placement

Resource Development and Support

SUMMARY OF CHANGES:

New

Supersedes Out-of-Home Permanency Placement Safety Check Time Frames and Home Visit Frequency (January 6, 2015)

Supersedes Permanency Services Documentation Policies and Procedures (Effective: October 1, 2009) Sections

- 5260. Assessment b. Out-of-Home Placement Safety Check
- 5430. Out-of-Home Placement Safety Check

Supersedes Permanency Services Policies and Procedures (Effective: October 1, 2009) Sections

- 5260. Assessment b. Out-of-Home Placement Safety Check
- 5430. Out-of-Home Placement Safety Check

Supersedes Procedures for taking photos of the Out-of-Home Caregiver placement as part of the Out-of-Home Placement Safety Check (October 1, 2013)

DEFINITIONS:

For a list of acronyms and a glossary of terms used throughout DFS refer to [Acronyms and Glossary](#) located on [DFSNet](#).

FORMS, PUBLICATIONS, AND INSTRUCTIONAL DOCUMENTS:

N/A

POLICY:

- A. The Department of Family Services (DFS) formally evaluates the provision and sufficiency of ongoing Out-of-home Safety Plans through use of the Confirming Safe Environments Instrument (CSE Instrument).
- B. The Permanency Specialist completes a CSE Instrument at the following time frames:
 1. Within the thirty (30) calendar days prior to each Protective Capacity Progress Assessment (PCPA), with no more than ninety (90) calendar days between CSE Instruments.
 2. Within the thirty (30) calendar days prior to any Permanency Review court hearing.
 3. Any time a judgment about the quality of the placement is brought into question.
 4. The same business day as any of the following conditions is observed in a placement. Pictures of each room in the home must be taken the same day and sufficiency of the Out-of-home Safety Plan must be evaluated if any of these conditions are observed:
 - a. Questionable or unsafe living arrangements.
 - i. Including evidence that weapons/ammunition are not stored and locked appropriately. Appropriate storage of firearms is based on [NAC 424.600](#) and [NRS 424.044](#).
 - 1) If the out-of-home caregiver is a law enforcement officer or holds a permit to carry a concealed firearm, storage of firearm and ammunition must be in a locked secure storage container.
 - 2) For all other out-of-home caregivers, firearms must be stored in locked containers or made inoperable. Ammunition must be stored in a separate locked container.
 - b. Condition of the home is questionable or unsanitary as related to potential hygienic issues.
 - c. The environment is usually chaotic and disorganized.
 - d. The home presents with physical health hazards
 - i. Conditions including but not limited to exposed wires, broken glass, etc.
 - e. The home's utilities are not functioning properly.
- C. Confirming Safe Environments Monthly Oversight:
 1. At monthly contact in the home, the Permanency Specialist must remain diligent about evaluating attributes of a safe environment.
 2. Permanency Specialists must continually observe the placement home to ensure that acceptable conditions remain and that changes that occur do not pose a threat to child safety.
- D. Confirming Safe Environments:
 1. The CSE Instrument is the official evaluation and conclusion about the safe environment. This review does not require additional Specialist-placement home casework activity. The review is based upon sufficient contact and information collection conversations occurring during monthly contacts.
 2. Completion of the CSE Instrument includes:
 - a. Summarizing the status of attributes of a safe environment based upon the information collected through monthly contacts.
 - b. Ensuring that monthly documentation about the attributes of a safe environment is current and correct at the time of a CSE Instrument.
 - c. Summarizing documentation on monthly/continuing oversight. This summary must provide the justification and rationale for the ratings that the Permanency Specialist selects on the CSE Instrument.
 - d. Assesses and selects each assessment question in the CSE Instrument corresponding to the type of placement (relatives/fictive kin or foster parent).
 - e. Staffs with a supervisor to review the conclusions from the CSE Instrument and justification as contained in the documentation.
- E. If the CSE Instrument conclusions indicate concern in the degree of confidence in the environment, take immediate steps to revise and enhance the Safety Plan or move the child to a different placement.
 1. This includes referrals to:
 - a. Intake, if there is suspicion of abuse or neglect.
 - b. Resource Development and Support (RDS), if applicable.

2. DFS does not provide safety intervention services/management to the homes of placement providers.

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Services

February 26, 2019

Approved Date