

19. Voluntary placement agreements

Occasionally a family requests voluntary placement of a child. This occurs only when a child's physical or mental health care needs are so extensive a family is unable to adequately meet those needs. In these instances a family maintains the legal custody of the child, while the department takes responsibility for the child's placement and care. The family enters into a Voluntary Placement Agreement with the department. The department takes responsibility for the child's placement, care and safety while in a substitute care placement.

Refer to Chapter VI, Family Support Services, for procedures on determining a family's needs, developing a Family Support Services Case Plan, and entering into a voluntary placement agreement.

