

Lois A. Day, Administrator
Office of Safety & Permanency for Children

Authorized Signature

Number: CW-AR-10-006
Issue Date: 11/15/2010

Topic: Foster Care

Due Date: 12/15/2010

Subject: Sibling Visitation Practice

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

Action Required:

Child Welfare Supervisors are to review planning and coordinating sibling placement together and sibling visitation practice (when placement together does not occur) with casework staff at regular Unit meetings within the next 30 days.

Reason for Action:

Federal - Public Law 110-351, Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 provides that, as a Title IV-E agency, we are to provide reasonable efforts regarding siblings in two specific areas.

Oregon complies with this in our practice of placing siblings together supported in statute under ORS 419B.192, in administrative rules under I-E.1, and in our requirements to report to the court the dates, times and locations of sibling visits, and when siblings are not together, why such placement is in a child's best interest to be placed separately.

Sibling placement

First, to ensure to the best of our ability the placement of siblings removed from their home are in the same foster care setting, guardianship, or adoptive placement unless we have documentation that such a joint placement would be contrary to the safety or well-being of any of the siblings.

Sibling Visitation

Second, the federal law requires that there be 'frequent visitation or other ongoing interaction between siblings,' again, unless it is contrary to safety or well-being of any of the siblings. Frequent is otherwise defined by federal regulations as "at least monthly [emphasis added]." ACYF-CB-PI-10-11, issued 07/09/2010.

Oregon continues, to most often, place siblings together, and create opportunities for continued interactions and visitation for those children unable to be placed together. This Action Memo is intended to support this continued practice, and to create shared practices in which we strive to meet these standards for all children and siblings.

Field/Stakeholder review: Yes No

If yes, reviewed by: Field/Stakeholder review not required.

If you have any questions about this action request, contact:

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