

Policy Title:	Disruption of Adoptive Placements – Policy		
Policy Number:	I-G.1.13		Effective Date: 07-01-2001

Approved By: *on file*

Date Approved:

Policy

Forms, etc.

Definitions

References

Contact

Reference(s):

- Child Welfare Policy I-F.2, Determining the Adoptability of a Child
- Child Welfare Policy I-G.1.8, Adoption and IIS

Form(s) that apply:

- None referenced.

Policy:

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the role of the State Office for Services to Children and Families when a *disruption* of an SOSCF adoptive placement occurs.

Definitions

(1) **“Disruption”** is when an adoptive placement ends prior to legalization.

(2) **“Disruption Staffing”** is a meeting convened by the child's worker (or adoption worker if he/she retains the case after the *disruption*) to gain a comprehensive assessment of issues that led to the *disruption* and the child's issues that would need to be addressed to prepare the child for another adoptive placement. Individuals significant in the child's life (i.e., case workers, therapists, foster parents, birth relatives) should be invited to the meeting.

(3) **“Branch Permanency/Adoption Committee”** The branch committee responsible for certain permanency and adoptions decisions, as specified in this rule. Members of the *Branch Permanency/Adoption Committee* are determined by the branch and are branch staff or staff from other branches. Branch committee members shall be individuals not involved in the case.

(4) **“Permanency/Adoption Council”** A Council which consists of SOSCF management, permanency and adoption staff (which may include legal assistance workers), and community partners. Each Quadrant has a *Permanency/Adoption Council*. The Council through Interbranch Permanency/Adoptions Committees makes decisions about the appropriateness of adoption as a permanency plan, sibling planning, recruitment issues,

adoption *disruptions* and adoption selections referred by the branch. It also holds permanency staffings to decide whether to move a child out of state. The Adoptions Services Unit Manager has delegated decision-making in these areas to the Councils. The Council is also responsible to facilitate information sharing, peer consultation and support within the Quadrant.

(5) “Interbranch Permanency/Adoption Committee” Means the permanency/adoption committee(s) established through the *Permanency/Adoption Council* which are responsible for decisions regarding adoptive placement selections as specified by rule that are neither the responsibility of the branch nor the central office. One type of *Interbranch Permanency/Adoption Committee* is set by the worker using a pool of qualified permanency/adoption/legal assistance staff designated by the *Permanency/Adoption Council*. Another type, the Standing *Interbranch Permanency/Adoption Committee*, is either a predetermined Council appointed committee of three people, or a committee established by the *Permanency/Adoption Council* chair. Sibling planning issues are always the responsibility of the Standing Permanency/Adoption Committee.

Values

- (1) Adoptive relationships are unique and should be preserved whenever possible.
- (2) The child's needs shall be foremost when a SOSCF adoptive placement disrupts.
- (3) SOSCF recognizes that both the adoptive family and child need support during the *disruption* process.
- (4) Permanency planning for a child needs to continue when a SOSCF adoptive placement disrupts.

Procedure

- (1) When an adoptive family expresses reservations about proceeding to legalization, reasonable attempts should be made to provide services aimed at preserving the placement.
- (2) When the supervising worker determines that it is in the best interest of the child to disrupt the adoptive placement (not in cases where the adoptive parent(s) decide to disrupt the placement), the case will be staffed with the supervisor and branch manager or designee and referred to the Adoptions Services Unit Manager for approval of the decision.
- (3) In the event of a disrupted adoptive placement, a *disruption staffing* is recommended. Multiple *disruptions* require a *disruption staffing*.
- (4) If an adoption disrupts, the SOSCF worker who assumes supervision of the child shall follow the procedures delineated in SOSCF policy I-G.1.8, Adoption and IIS.
- (5) If the placement disrupts and the child's current adoptability is in question, an adoptability staffing shall occur with a *Branch Permanency/Adoption Committee* or an *Interbranch Permanency/Adoption Committee* within six months of the *disruption*. (Refer to policy I-F.2, Determining the Appropriateness of Adoption as a Permanency Plan.)

Contact(s):

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Prior Version