

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL	
	Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Services	Effective Date: March 1, 2011
	Section 16: Resource Parent(s) Role	Version: 2

POLICY

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will require the resource family to:

1. Participate in supporting the [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) goals;
2. Participate in supporting the Concurrent Planning for permanency. See separate policy, [5.15 Concurrent Planning](#);
3. Provide a positive and nurturing environment for the child;
4. Provide for the child's basic needs (e.g., food, clothing, and shelter). See separate policy, [8.19 Clothing, Personal Items, and Permitted Per Diem Expenses](#);
5. Maintain discretion when sharing information regarding the child and the child's family;
6. Encourage and support the maximum amount of interaction between the parent, guardian, or custodian and the child, with consideration given to:
 - a. The child's comfort level,
 - b. Safety concerns, and
 - c. The needs of the child.
7. Refrain from speaking negatively about any member of the child's family or other persons with whom the child has a significant relationship;
8. Encourage the child to express feelings about his or her situation (e.g., feelings regarding the initial separation, abuse or neglect suffered, reunification (if applicable), visitation, etc.);
9. Maintain a neutral attitude when discussing visitation or other parent, guardian, or custodian interaction with the child.
10. Participate as a member of the Child and Family Team (CFT). See separate policy, [5.7 Family Team Meetings](#);
11. Participate in court hearings when notified; and

Code References

N/A

PROCEDURE

Regarding the resource family role, the Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Review and discuss the above policy statement with the resource family; and
2. **[REVISED]** Provide the resource family with one copy of the [Acknowledgement of Out-of-Home Policies](#) form and place the original signed signature page in the case file.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

N/A

FORMS AND TOOLS

1. [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) – Available in MaGIK
2. [Visitation Plan](#)- Available in MaGIK
3. [Acknowledgement of Out-of-Home Policies](#)

RELATED INFORMATION

Supporting the Child's Positive Identification with His or Her Family of Origin

One of the most important resource family roles is to support the child's positive identification and positive relationship with the child's family of origin. This is true regardless of the amount of parent, guardian, or custodian interaction and involvement prescribed by the [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) and [Visitation Plan](#). A child identifying with his or her family is very important, regardless of the permanency goal. The relationship between the child and his or her family has a long-term affect on the child's self-esteem and future emotional well-being. See separate policy, [8.11 Parental Interaction and Involvement](#) for a detailed matrix that describes the levels of interaction between children and their parent, guardian, or custodian, and the corresponding levels of involvement that the parent, guardian, or custodian will have in their child's life.