

PLAN FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME-CARE

The Department of Children and Families (DCF), as the licensing agency, provides this plan to ensure the well-being and safety of children in licensed homes. The children's licensed caregivers and partners, such as the child-placing agencies, residential child-caring agencies, and staff of these agencies undertake the below responsibilities to ensure and promote the well-being and safety of the children under their care.

The purpose of this plan is to ensure that all parties understand the values, commitments, principles, and relationships necessary to fulfill this responsibility. The following commitments are the foundation for ensuring each child's well-being and safety:

1. To ensure the care provided to children supports their healthy development and gives them the best possible opportunity for success, licensed caregivers, residential child-caring agencies, and partnering professionals will work together with respect.
2. All members of this partnership will behave professionally, will share all relevant information promptly, and will respect the confidentiality of all information related to the child and his/her family or sponsor.
3. Licensed caregivers and the partners will participate in developing the plan for each child and all members of the team will work together to implement this plan.
4. Licensed caregivers will provide, and professional partners will support, informed and connected parenting. This requires a commitment to the child and the child's safety and well-being, appropriate supervision, positive methods of discipline, encouragement of the child's strengths, respect for the child's individuality and likes/dislikes, awareness of the impact of trauma on children's behavior, equal participation in family life, the opportunity to experience connections in healthy relationships, and a commitment to allow the child to lead as normal a life as possible.
5. Children will only be placed with licensed caregivers who have the ability and are willing to accept responsibility for the care of a child in light of the child's culture, religion and ethnicity, special physical or psychological needs, and family relationships.
6. Licensed caregivers will have access to and take advantage of all training they need in order to improve their skills in parenting children who have experienced trauma. They will work effectively with all professional partners and community services engaged with the child.
7. Licensed caregivers will be provided with the support they need to enable them to provide quality care for the child.
8. Partners will work with the caregiver to ensure the child's safety and well-being is protected. Partners will complete in-person welfare checks on the child a minimum of once every six months until the child reaches the age of 18, permanently leaves Florida, is removed from the United States, or is granted lawful immigration status, whichever comes first.

9. Partners will immediately notify the Department if contact is unable to be made with the caregiver, if confirmation of the child's welfare is unable to be made, or if the child's welfare is in jeopardy.

10. When a child has been placed in a licensed foster home or group home and it is evident the family is unable to care for him/her safely or legally, when the child is being placed in a legally permanent home, or when it is demonstrably in the child's best interest, the child will be removed from that placement.

11. If a child must be removed from a placement for one of the above reasons, or due to an unforeseen emergency, a transition plan will be developed and followed. This plan will include sharing of information among all parties, respecting for the child's developmental stage and psychological needs, and ensuring all the child's belongings are moved with them.

12. Licensed caregivers will respect and support the child's ties to his/her biological family. Licensed caregivers will be provided with information, guidance, training and support necessary for fulfilling this responsibility.

13. Licensed caregivers will collaborate with professional partners to obtain and maintain records that are important to the child's well-being, including medical records, photographs, and records of special events and achievements, etcetera.

14. Licensed caregivers and professional partners will coordinate to ensure medical and dental care is received by the child. Licensed caregivers will report medical, dental, or psychological needs in a timely fashion.

15. Licensed caregivers or their designees will effectively advocate for children in their care with professional partners. Licensed caregivers will be supported in doing so and will not be retaliated against as a result of this advocacy.

16. Licensed caregivers, DCF, and professional partners will share information with each other about the child's health and well-being.

Signature of Caregiver

Date

Signature of Caregiver

Date

Signature of Agency Representative

Date