

**CLINTON COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES
FOSTER CARE PROGRAM
POLICY ON CHILD'S DISCHARGE FROM OUT-OF-HOME CARE SETTING**

In accordance with Rule 5101:2-5-13A (28) of the Ohio Administrative Code, Clinton County Job and Family Services shall determine the necessity for continued substitute care placement of each child, whether the child's status is temporary or permanent. The agency shall assess the need for continued substitute care placement no less frequently than every six months from the date of placement or at each semi-annual administrative review. For children in temporary custody, the agency shall determine that there is a need for continued substitute care placement when the child, if returned to his own home, would be at imminent risk. In making such a determination, the agency shall take into account whether the child's parent(s) or guardian(s) is/are available, able and willing to provide protection for the child, and whether supportive services and/or protective services and supervision could provide adequate protection for the child if he were returned to his own home.

If the agency determines there is no longer a need for the child to continue in substitute care, said agency shall notify all interested parties involved and shall amend the caseplan accordingly with directions for the child's discharge from his substitute care setting and subsequent return to his own home.

A child can be discharged from an out-of-home care setting for the following conditions:

1. The courts system has ordered that the child be removed from a foster home and placed back with the birth parent or guardian.
2. The birth parent has entered into a Voluntary Care Agreement and the birth parent and custodial agency is in agreement for the child to be returned home.
3. The custodial agency places a child into an adoptive home.
4. The foster caregiver/or out-of-home provider request that the child be moved from the current placement.

The criteria for emergency discharges of a child from an out-of-home care setting is as follows:

1. The court system has ordered that a child be removed from the out-of-home placement setting immediately.
2. The child has been charged with a crime and is placed in a detention facility.
3. The foster caregiver/or out-of-home provider request that the child be removed immediately due to a crisis or risk factor with the child.
4. The child is assessed by the custodial agency to be at imminent risk and emergency removal is necessary for the safety and protection of the child.

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Amendments to the caseplan in such circumstances shall include at least the following information:

- a. Explanation of the circumstances/services offered to the child and his caregivers which resulted in the agency's decision to discharge the child from substitute care and return him to his own home;
- b. Estimated time in which the child shall be returned to his own home;
- c. Detailed descriptions of supportive/protective services to be offered to the child and his caregiver(s) when he is returned home.

For the children who are 16 years or older and whose goals are emancipation, the agency shall document in the caseplan efforts to enroll the child in an independent living skills program as necessary, and prior to his discharge from substitute care.

For children in permanent custody the agency shall document efforts to locate an adoptive placement or other permanent alternative placement.

Emergency discharges and discharges not in accordance with the child's caseplan shall result in the agency's notification of all interested parties involved, and preparation of amendments to the child's caseplan describing said changes accordingly.

Submitted by:

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Approved by:

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