



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

INFORMATIONAL MEMO

DATE: September 25, 2015

TO: Regional Managing Directors, Community-Based Care CEOs

THROUGH: David L. Fairbanks, Deputy Secretary
Vicki Abrams, Assistant Secretary for Operations

FROM: Janice Thomas, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare
Traci Leavine, Director of Child Welfare Practice *JW for Traci Leavine*

SUBJECT: Case Planning: Updated Requirements

PURPOSE: To provide updates related to case planning due to changes in federal and state law.

BACKGROUND: On September 29, 2014, Public Law 113-183, The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, was signed into law and includes amendments to the Social Security Act regarding case planning for children age 14 and older who are in out-of-home care. The requirements outlined below are effective September 29, 2015. In addition, Chapter 2015-130, Laws of Florida, includes additional amendments to case planning.

ACTION NEEDED: Section 113 of Public Law 113-183 amended Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to include requirements that seek to empower foster children to actively participate in the development of their own case plan and transition plan for a successful adulthood by including new provisions specific to children 14 years of age and older. The case plan and any revision or addition to the plan shall be developed in consultation with the child. The child may choose up to two (2) members of the case planning team who are not the foster parent or case manager. The case manager shall document the reasons for excluding a team member chosen by the child when it is believed that the individual will not act in the best interests of the child.

In addition, Chapter 2015-130, Laws of Florida amended section 409.145(2)(b), Florida Statutes, to require that the child's caregiver participate in developing the case plan for the child and his or her family and that the caregiver work with others in the implementation of the plan, including participation in team meetings and court hearings. Caregivers shall receive timely notification of meetings and hearings and be offered reasonable accommodations for participation.

FSFN documentation will need to include notification to the child regarding the child's choice to choose members of the case planning team and that the child's caregiver was included in the development and implementation of the case plan.

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Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

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CONTACT INFORMATION: Should you have questions about this communication, please contact Amy Hand, Office of Child Welfare, at 850-717-4491 or via e-mail at amy.hand@myflfamilies.com.

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