

BRAAM v. STATE OF WASHINGTON

REVISED SETTLEMENT AND EXIT AGREEMENT

Appendix A - Exceptions to Sibling Placement

Any decision to separate siblings initially, during or after placement should be handled as an exception to policy and must be clearly documented.

There are times when siblings should not be placed together. Siblings may be separated and placed apart only under the following circumstances:

- 1) As a result of a admission of a sibling into detention, a psychiatric hospital or a residential treatment setting to meet the unique and individualized needs of one of the siblings;
- 2) A sibling becomes a significant threat to the safety of another sibling or cannot be controlled if the siblings are placed together;
- 3) A sibling becomes a significant threat to the safety of another person in the placement, and the risk to that person cannot be controlled if the sibling remains. If movement of the entire sibling group is determined not to be in their overall best interest, the sibling presenting the threat will be moved;
- 4) A sibling with a physical, emotional or mental condition requires specialized services in order to accomplish specific therapeutic goals. The sibling may be placed apart from other siblings for the length of time necessary to meet the need requiring separate placement;
- 5) An abusive relationship between the siblings exists where therapy, with a safety plan in place, is not effective or not the appropriate intervention;
- 6) To permit placement with relatives who live near the home of the siblings. Thus, a large sibling group may be placed in two related homes near their family home if necessary to place them in close proximity to their family;
- 7) Court order prohibits the Department from placing siblings together; or
- 8) Other extraordinary circumstances that are documented and approved under these procedures.

Written approval by the Supervisor and Area Administrator is needed if siblings are not placed together.

Whenever siblings are separated, every effort shall be made to place them in close proximity to each other, unless there is an exception as noted above.