

Objective: Preserve connections with parents, siblings, and other significant people

Measured by: Children visiting with their parents

Regardless of the events which precipitate a child being removed from his or her home, children more often than not feel tremendous devotion to and longing for ongoing connection to their families of origin.

Whenever it is in the best interest of children, CA is required to facilitate visitation between children in out-of-home care and their parents or legal guardians. The administration also encourages ongoing contact with siblings and other significant relatives in an effort to preserve meaningful family attachments.

CA monitors the frequency with which children and their families visit on a thirty-day cycle. It is expected that in appropriate cases children and their families are able to visit at least once in every thirty-day period; however, visitation usually occurs much more frequently. Over the past seven years, the percent of children visiting with their families has fluctuated between 80 percent and 96 percent. In June of 2003, 87.4 percent of children in out-of-home care were able to visit with their families within the previous thirty days. This decline from the previous year appears to be due to fluctuations within a single region. It is uncertain whether the decline is in actual visitations or in data entry and reporting of those visits. In either case, the Children's Administration is exploring ways of improving both the percentage of children who visit with their caregivers and the method by which this measure is tracked.

Due to safety concerns and other factors such as unavailability of parents, it is not always possible or prudent for all children in care to visit with their families, thus it is expected that this measure will never reach 100 percent.

Do you know?

7. What are some of the goals in the priority area of "permanency"?
8. What are some factors which may influence the decision to seek the permanency plan of "guardianship" for a child?
9. The Title of House Bill 1233 and some of its provisions?

Answers may be found on page 58 of this report.

Parent/Permanent Caregiver and Child Visitations*



*Handcount of the percent of children with a permanent plan of reunification who visited with their parent or permanent caretaker at least once within the last 30 days of the quarter.

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