



# Children's Law Center of Los Angeles

## ***“DEPENDENCY LEGAL NEWS”***

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## **OTHER LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS**

### **New or Revised Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services Policies of Significance –**

#### **For Your Information (FYIs):**

08-51 (REV) DCFS Transitional Housing Program (THP) Update

Link to FYI:

<http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/Policy/FYI/2008/FYI0851TransitionalHousingProgramREV.doc>

This FYI was revised to inform staff that although the DCFS Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Young People only accepts youth from certain living situations, it may be able to make exceptions if the CSW can document in his/her court report all efforts she/he has made to secure alternate housing programs and that the efforts have been exhausted. (SA)

08-54 Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC)

Link to FYI: <http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/Policy/FYI/2008/FYI0854ITFC.doc>

This FYI is to inform staff about the ITFC program which is meant to provide an alternative to higher level group homes by placing only one foster child in a specialized foster home where the child has an individualized treatment program and the foster parents are carefully matched to each child and specially trained and supported 24/7. This FYI explains which children the ITFC program targets, what services it provides, and the referral process. (SA)

08-55            Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC)

Link to FYI: <http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/Policy/FYI/2008/FYI0855MTFC.doc>

This FYI informs staff about the MTFC program which is meant to provide comprehensive therapy to children in the child welfare system through placement in a specialized foster home for 6-12 months in which the child is the only foster child. This FYI describes what the MTFC program is, the behavioral problems it addresses, the criteria for children to qualify, the services it provides to the children, and the referral process. (SA)

**Procedural Guide:**

0100-525.40    Team Decision Making: The Resources Management Process  
(RMP/TDM)

Link to Procedure:

<http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/Policy/Hndbook%20CWS/0100/010052540RMPv1108.doc>

This procedural guide explains the Resources Management Process (RMP/TDM), which is a type of TDM that is a family centered, multi-departmental, integrated approach to identifying, coordinating and linking appropriate resources/services to meet the needs of children currently in or at risk of a RCL 6 through 14 placement. The RMP/TDM will consist of three major elements:

- First, it will enhance the TDM process for children in or at risk of a potential placement move into RCL 6 or above residential care.
- Second, the child's strengths and needs will be assessed using the Child and Adolescence Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool by a Resources Utilization Management (RUM) staff and a DMH clinician.
- Third, the services identified by the family and the team will be approved and linked by a team member and the CSW. (SA)

0200-506.10    (REV) Applicant Assessment for the Adoption Of Children

Link to Procedure:

<http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/Policy/Hndbook%20CWS/0200/020050610v1108.doc>

This procedural guide was updated to reflect the provisions of the Adam Walsh Act (AB 2651) which lists criminal offenses for which the Department will recommend denial of an adoption home study / family assessment. The provisions of AB 2651 applies to prospective foster and certified parents, prospective adoptive parents, and relatives who are licensed or approved for placement on or after October 1, 2008. The law also applies to any adults residing in the home of the prospective adoptive parent(s). (SA)

0200-507.15 (REV) Assessment of Petitioner(s), Birth Parent(s) and Child for an Independent Adoption

Link to Procedure:

<http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/Policy/Hndbook%20CWS/0200/020050715V1108.doc>

This procedural guide was revised to reflect the increase in the fee for an Independent Adoption petition. Further, requests for fee waivers will no longer be accepted and submission of the final report to the court by the Department is no longer required unless all fees have been paid. This procedural guide has also been updated to reflect the provisions the Adam Walsh Act which lists criminal offenses for which the Department will recommend denial of a petition for adoption. (SA)

0200-507.35 (REV) Stepparent and Domestic Partner Adoptions

Link to Procedure:

<http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/Policy/Hndbook%20CWS/0200/020050735V1108.doc>

This procedural guide was updated to include provisions for checking other states' Child Abuse Index Registry for a petitioner who has resided in another state other than California in the past five years. Also, information was included regarding conducting a CWS/CMS search on the petitioner to see if she/he has any prior referrals for child abuse or neglect in California. (SA)

0200-510.00 Post Adoption Services: Services Available to Families With a Finalized Adoption

Link to Procedure:

<http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/Policy/Hndbook%20CWS/0200/020051000v1108.doc>

The procedural guide provides guidelines to Post Adoption Services workers on how to handle cases in which the adoptive parent is having difficulty with the child after the adoption has finalized, including providing a list of services to which the family can be referred to aid in resolving their problems. (SA)

0300-503.55 (REV) Protective Custody Warrants: Requesting Or Recalling And Report Of Runaway Event/Return Of Youth Age 18 Or Older

Link to Procedure:

<http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/Policy/Hndbook%20CWS/0300/030050355WarrantV1108.doc>

This procedural guide has been revised to reflect that CSWs are required to arrange to have children brought to court when recalling a protective custody warrant. (SA)

0300-503.94 (REV) Set-On / Walk-On Procedures

Link to Procedure:

<http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/Policy/Hndbook%20CWS/0300/030050394V1108.doc>

The title of this procedural guide has been changed. In addition, instructions and a chart were added to explain in what situations it is appropriate to "walk-on" a matter and when to

schedule a hearing. (SA)

0600-500.20 Protected Health Information / Medical Information: Access and Sharing

Link to Procedure:

<http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/Policy/Hndbook%20CWS/0600/060050020PHIv1108.doc>

This procedural guide addresses the Federal and State laws regarding disclosure of Protected Health Information (PHI) (health and mental health information) by health care providers to DCFS, caregivers and the court as well as the limits on re-disclosure of medical or mental health information obtained by DCFS. The purpose of this procedural guide is to help CSWs access health and mental health information on behalf of children under DCFS supervision to ensure that their health care needs are met. (SA)

0900-511.20 (REV) Adoption Fees

Link to Procedure:

<http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/Policy/Hndbook%20CWS/0900/090051120AdptFeev1108.doc>

This procedural guide was revised to reflect the increase in the fee for an Independent Adoption. (SA)

1200-500.86 Immigration Options For Undocumented Children & Families

Link to Procedure:

<http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/Policy/Hndbook%20CWS/1200/120050086Immigrationv1108.doc>

This procedural guide explains the different types of immigration relief programs available for undocumented citizens. Children and families do not need to have an open case with DCFS or be dependents of the court to be eligible for the immigration programs listed in this policy. (SA)

1200-501.00 Reporting Unhealthy Living Conditions

Link to Procedure:

<http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/Policy/Hndbook%20CWS/1200/120050100v1108.doc>

The procedural guide provides guidelines for CSWs to follow when they discover unhealthy living conditions during a child abuse investigation or during a home call on an open case, including guidelines on when to contact Environmental Health (under the Department of Public Health). (SA)