




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
1500 Jefferson Street, SE • P.O. Box 40975 • Olympia WA 98504-0975

POLICY MEMO

June 27, 2023

TO: Child Welfare Employees

FROM: Natalie Green, Assistant Secretary 

RE: Changes to [4420. Health and Safety Visits with Children and Youth and Monthly Visits with Parents and Caregivers](#) policy

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

SUNSET REVIEW DATE: July 1, 2024

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance to Child Welfare (CW) Employees of the updated policy and procedure requirements to align with [House Bill 1227: Keeping Families Together Act](#).

This policy is under full review for further revisions, but the following changes will take effect July 1, 2023:

New Policy Requirements

Caseworkers must ask the court for authority to do the following:

- Access the children in the home to conduct at minimum:
 - Two in-home health and safety visits per calendar month for all children in an In-Home Pre-Fact-Finding status ages five or younger.
 - One in home health and safety visit per calendar month for all children and youth an In-Home Pre-Fact-Finding status ages six and older.

New Procedural Requirements

- Caseworkers must complete all of the following activities during both scheduled and unannounced monthly private face-to-face visits with in and out-of-home caregivers:
 - Identify goods or services to assist in supporting and maintaining placement, per the [Concrete Goods](#) policy memo.
 - Provide training resources available through the [Alliance for Child Welfare](#), as needed.
 - Assess the children in the household for imminent physical harm and follow Safety Assessment Policy

New Definition Added to [Appendix A](#)

“IN-HOME PRE-FACT FINDING” means when DCYF files a dependency petition and children or youth either:

- Remain in the home.
- Are returned to the home prior to a dependency being established and DCYF does not retain PCA (Placement and Care Authority) per the court order.

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact Paula McJohnson, Engagement Program Manager, at paula.mcjohnson@dcyf.wa.gov or 360-790-7151.

Cc: Brenda Villarreal