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DIVISION: (Required Field)	Program and Policy
DOCUMENT TYPE: (Required Field)	Manual
MEDIA:	**Select Media**
TOPIC: (Required Field)	Manual Revision
DOCUMENT TITLE:	Manual G Chapter: 62
DOCUMENT DATE/RANGE: (Required Field)	
DAN NUMBER:	**Select DAN Number**
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06/06/2017

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PREFACE TO FOSTER CARE CHAPTER 62

Senate Resolution
1974 - 172

By Senators Day, Van Hollebeke and Jones

WHEREAS, Even more than for other children, society has a responsibility along with parents for the well-being of foster children; and

WHEREAS, Citizens are responsible for acting to insure their welfare; and

WHEREAS, Every foster child is endowed with the rights inherently belonging to all children; and

WHEREAS, Because of the temporary or permanent separation from and loss of parents and other family members, the foster child requires special safeguards, resources, and care;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate adopts the following as the BILL OF RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN:

EVERY FOSTER CHILD HAS THE INHERENT RIGHT:

Article I TO be cherished by a family of his own, either his family helped by readily available services and supports to reassume his care, or an adoptive family or by plan, a continuing foster family.

Article II TO be nurtured by foster parents who have been selected to meet his individual needs and who are provided services and supports, including specialized education, so that they can grow in their ability to enable the child to reach his potential.

Article III TO receive sensitive, continuing help in understanding and accepting the reasons for his own family's inability to take care of him, and in developing confidence in his own self-worth.

Article IV TO receive continuing loving care and respect as a unique human being ... a child growing in trust in himself and others.

Article V TO grow up in freedom and dignity in a neighborhood of people who accept him with understanding, respect and friendship.

Article VI TO receive help in overcoming deprivation or whatever distortion in his emotional, physical, intellectual, social and spiritual growth may have resulted from his early experiences.

Article VII TO receive education, training, and career guidance to prepare him for a useful and satisfying life.

Article VIII TO receive preparation for citizenship and parenthood through inter-action with foster parents and other adults who are consistent role models.

Article IX TO be represented by an attorney at law in administrative or judicial proceedings with access to fair hearings and court review of decisions, so that his best interests are safeguarded.

Article X TO receive a high quality of child welfare services, including involvement of the natural parents and his own involvement in major decisions that affect his life.

I, Sid Snyder, Secretary of the Senate, do hereby certify this is a true and correct copy of Senate Resolution No. 1974-172, adopted by the Senate January 21, 1974.

CHAPTER 62 - FOSTER CARE

62.08 FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

Foster care is the service which provides a 24-hour per day substitute care either in a family home or group care facility for a planned period of time for a child who has to be separated from his natural or legal parents, together with casework and other treatment services needed by the child and his parents. Manual H, Chapter 62.

Foster care includes:

1. The determination of need for foster care.

2. The determination of the specific needs of the child.

3. The placement of a child in the family foster home which best meets the child's needs and supervision of the child in the foster home.

4. The purchase of care from a private child placement agency, a group home or a maternity home.

5. The determination of need for foster care for a dependent child referred to the LO by a private child caring agency.

62.10 SOURCE OF REFERRAL

Requests to the local office for foster care services come from such principal sources as:

1. The parent(s) of the child either by a direct request or a referral from another unit with the Department such as Protective Services,

2. An out-of-state agency either public or private,

3. A state school or rehabilitative institution for youth,

4. A private agency, either profit or non-profit,

5. The juvenile court giving the Department custody of the child, and

6. The child himself.

62.14 SERVICE ELIGIBILITY FACTORS

1. Foster care may be provided for any child under 18 years of age who needs protection, is homeless, dependent, or neglected, or who cannot live with his own family because of conditions which threaten the child's normal development. When a child in foster care, under a juvenile court order, reaches age 18, foster care payments may be continued through the end of the school year immediately following his eighteenth birthday.

a. The parents' inability or unwillingness to contribute to a child's support does not affect that child's need for and eligibility for foster care services.

2. When the source of referral for foster care is other than the parent himself, the juvenile court or a private agency having custody of the child, the LO must ascertain who is legally responsible for the child and contact that person or agency prior to formulating a plan for placement.

62.16 AUTHORITY FOR PLACEMENT AND SUPERVISION

Regardless of the source of referral, the LO's authority to place a child and provide care stems from the court or the child's legal parents.

1. The child must be either a ward of the court and in the custody of the department; or the child's legal parent(s) has requested placement of the child.

   a. The parent(s) of a child removed from them by court order must give written permission to the Department authorizing medical care and stating the child's religious affiliation or preference.

   b. The parent(s) requesting placement and supervision of its child must do so in writing, including permission to furnish medical care and designating religious affiliation or preference.

2. Emergency foster care may be provided to all children for whom such placement is appropriate. A child may be held in emergency shelter care up to 72 hours excluding Sundays and holidays at which time a petition must be filed with the juvenile court or the child returned to his parents.

62.18 ELIGIBILITY FOR PAYMENT FOR FOSTER CARE

Payment is made when the Department's service staff has determined need for foster care, and

1. The child is in the legal custody of the Department or

2. The child is in the custody of a private agency and has been appropriately referred to the Department or

3. The child has been referred to a private agency for purchase of care and service by the LO or

4. The child's parents have voluntarily requested placement and supervision by the Department.

a. An exception is made, except residents of King County, for a non-adjudicated delinquent child placed by a probation officer of the juvenile court, only when the child:

(1) Has been receiving the benefits of the probation subsidy program,

(2) Is in need of a foster care placement, and

(3) Would lose the benefits of the subsidy program if its relationship with the probation officer was disrupted. See Section 62.52.

All persons and agencies to whom the Department makes payment must:

1. Be appropriately licensed and approved, or if not subject to licensing, be certified or otherwise approved as meeting licensing and/or other appropriate requirements adopted by the Department.

2. Have the approval of the two state offices involved if a foster care placement is made out of the state.

62.20 AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT

In all instances authorization for payment is the responsibility of financial services. See WAC 388-70-022.

62.26 PLACEMENT GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

A child comes into foster care for various reasons, such as removed from his own home by court because of parental neglect; in need of foster care because of temporary illness of parent or other crisis in his family; because he is on parole status from a public institution and has no home to return to or his parents are unable to care for him; referred for foster care by a protective service worker within the agency for temporary care; or is referred by one of the schools for the mentally retarded for placement within the community as he has no home to return to.

Placement procedures include the following:

1. Preplacement planning.

2. Use of receiving homes.

3. Guidelines for the selection of foster family homes.

4. Use of specialized foster homes.

62.28 PREPLACEMENT PLANNING

Preplacement activity depends on a large extent on the length of time the

child has been known to the Department in order that all services and resources such as day care and homemaker services have been made available to the family to help keep it intact. When temporary foster care is first indicated, care of child by relatives shall be explored.

When placement is indicated regardless of the source of referral, the LO must:

1. Ascertain who is legally responsible for the child.

2. Contact the parent(s) or whoever is responsible for the child and involve them in planning.

3. Determine if child is in need of foster care.

4. Have the parent(s) sign the application and Authorization for Foster Care Services form 14-05(X).

5. Obtain the parents signature on the Consent to Place Child under Foster Home Care, 9PA04S, if the parents have requested the child's placement.

6. Obtain the parents signature on those portions of form 9PA04S pertaining to medical care and religious preference if child was removed from them by court order.

7. The placement worker, the parent(s) and the child, if appropriate, will develop a plan for resolving in a reasonable time the child's temporary status in foster family care and the family disruption.

62.30 USE OF RECEIVING HOMES

Foster home receiving homes are used for 72-hour shelter care, for emergency and for temporary care of children during the preplacement or replacement stages.

1. Emergency shelter care see (WAC 388-70-014). A child may be held in emergency shelter care up to 72 hours. Within 72 hours of filing a petition the juvenile court must sign an order for continued detention or shelter care or the child is returned to his parents.

   a. A child cannot be detained for longer than 30 days unless the judge signs an order authorizing continued detention or shelter care.

2. Examples of emergency care are:

   a. A runaway child is placed in a receiving home while plans are worked out for return to his own home, his foster home, or to his independent living arrangement.

   b. A child picked up on the street by police is placed in a receiving home in lieu of detention.

c. A child is in need of immediate placement because of family crisis, such as illness, death or other emergency which requires the natural parent or foster parent to be away from the family.

d. A child, detained on a holding order by juvenile court, is placed in a receiving home until a decision is made to return the child to his own home or some appropriate facility or to be placed.

3. All placements in receiving homes are classified as regular if the emergency criteria is not applicable. Examples of regular temporary care are:

a. A child in need and ready for a foster care placement should be placed in a receiving home until the foster care placement which will meet his needs can be made.

b. A child in need of a first placement or replacement, especially the teenager, who should be actively involved in the selection of his foster family home or other foster care facility. The receiving home is used for such types of situations rather than using a foster home on a trial basis.

4. Other criteria for use of receiving home:

a. A child cannot be held in a receiving home beyond 72 hours, not counting the weekend, unless there is a copy of the court order on file giving the Department responsibility for placement and planning, or there is a completed and signed 9PA04S, Consent to Place Child under Foster Care, in the child's case record.

b. The Application for Foster Care, 14-05(X), and the Change of Status Report, 6-15(X), must always designate whether the placement is classified as emergency or regular.

62.34 GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF FOSTER FAMILY HOMES

The selection of a licensed foster family home shall be based on the needs of the child and the suitability of the family and the child for each other.

1. Determination of child's needs:

a. Factors such as age, affectional, emotional and physical needs of the child and the temporary or permanent character of his removal from his own home shall be taken into consideration in selection of the foster family.

b. The parent(s) of the child are the main source of information and parents and worker shall work together for the time necessary in order that a proper placement may be made and a plan for foster care developed.

c. Depending on age, the child himself may assist in the selection of home. The child must be given an explanation of the reasons for his placement. If the parent cannot do this, the worker must assume this responsibility.

d. The selection process must take into consideration the special, specific or unusual needs of the child in order to determine the need for placement in a specialized foster family home.

2. Foster Parents

a. Optimum use of the foster family record(s) by the child placement staff will assist in determining the suitability of the home for a specific child.

b. Information about the child and his family to be given to the foster parents should be such as will help them to make a decision regarding their desire to accept child in their home.

c. The casework plan for the child should be discussed with foster parents so that they can understand and not feel left out by the activity of the worker and his relationship with the child and the child's own parents.

d. The foster parents should be prepared for the parents of the child having a continuing relationship with the child while he is in foster care, unless parental rights of the parents have been legally terminated.

e. The foster parent should be told of the breakdown of the foster care payment in order to know how much the child should have for his personal incidentals, how much is allowed for the replacement of clothing and the Department's procedures in vouchering payments to the foster parents.

3. Natural Parent(s) and Child

a. The foster home and the members of the foster family will be described to the child and his parents.

b. Except in a very unusual situation preplacement visit(s) to the foster home should be arranged.

c. The natural (own) parents will assist in the actual placement of child in foster home, if appropriate.

d. The natural parents should be informed of the cost of foster care, and if they cannot participate in actual placement, should be informed when and where actual placement is made.

e. Visiting privileges of child and natural parent(s) and time limits on placement, time of review and/or evaluation will be discussed with parents and will include the older child when applicable.

62.36 USE OF THE SPECIALIZED FOSTER FAMILY HOME

Some children have very specific or special or unusual needs. When after evaluation of the needs of the child the caseworker finds a child with special needs, such as the grossly mentally retarded, the severely handicapped, the emotionally disturbed or the adolescent child with serious behavior problems, he decides with the supervisor the amount of the payment to be added to the basic board rate and informs the foster parents. The child will be placed in a foster home which can meet the specific needs of the child involved. For rates see Section 62.100.

1. The Grossly Retarded and/or Severely Handicapped Child

   The need for this classification shall be documented in the case record, and be based upon a thorough evaluation by a competent professional person, such as a physician or qualified psychologist. Children in this group may show very slow and limited improvement. The child shall be provided with specialized care and training specific to his needs.

2. The Emotionally Disturbed Child

   The need for this classification shall be documented in the case record and be based upon a thorough evaluation by a physician. Examples of this type are the emotionally deprived younger child who shows excessive need for love, withdrawal, refusal to eat or excessive crying or the disturbed child of any age in an out-patient treatment setting or the hyperactive or an acting-out child whose emotional problems become converted into destructive or marked antisocial behavior. The needs of such a child are so great that usually a home for one foster child only is used.

3. The Disturbed Adolescent with a Serious Behavior Problem

   The child's behavior and his need for this special type of a foster home must be described in the case record. The foster parents selected must understand and respect the child's need for less intensive relationships with adults and his strong identification with his peers. The foster home can care for one to four adolescent children in this classification.

62.38 THE SELECTION OF FOSTER HOME FOR INDIVIDUAL CHILD

The selection of a home which will best meet the needs of the child and his or her family shall be based on:

1. The extent to which interests, strengths, abilities and needs of the foster family enable them to understand, accept, and meet the needs of a child as well as building on the child's talents and strengths.

2. The capacity of the foster family to relate to the child's age, interest, intelligence, religion, cultural background, parental relationship, educational status, social adjustment, individual problems, and plans for his or her future care.

3. Personal appeal of the child to the foster family.

4. Personal appeal of the foster family to the child.

5. Capacity of the foster parent(s) to deal adequately and comfortably with problems and positives which might arise during placement, especially as they relate to parent(s) visiting and the child's relationship with own parent(s).

6. The extent to which foster family may contribute to positive development of the child and alleviate specific problems which child has developed through past experiences.

7. The extent to which foster family may contribute to positive development of natural parent(s) as planned with the caseworker.

62.40 RESPONSIBILITIES OF FOSTER PARENTS - WAC 388-70-019

1. Decision Regarding Acceptance of Child

   To assist the foster family in making an informed decision regarding their desire to accept a particular child, anticipate problems and meet the needs of the child and his or her family, the foster parent(s) shall be provided with the following information:

   a. Problems and general behavior of the child.

   b. Child's interest and potential.

   c. Circumstances which necessitated placement.

   d. Important life experiences which may affect child's adjustment.

   e. Anticipated difficulties and positives presented by child's relationship with own parent(s).

   f. Established objective for child and own family with time allowed for reaching the objective.

2. Responsibilities after Placement

   Foster parents are responsible for providing the physical care and training of the child, arranging for routine medical care, educational planning, and such other parental activities associated with the day-by-day care of a child. They also have responsibility for immediately notifying the Department of any crisis in own or child's family.

   Foster parents may not:

   a. Arrange for major medical care for the child without court, Department or parental permission.

b. Arrange for the child's prolonged care outside their home.

c. Consent to the child's adoption, marriage, or enlistment in the armed services.

d. Take the child out of the state without permission.

e. Engage in any other activity on behalf of the child which conflicts with the rights of the legal custodian and/or guardian, provided that written authorization by the court or the agency may modify or enlarge upon the rights and responsibilities of the foster parents.

62.44 RIGHTS OF NATURAL PARENTS OF CHILD - SEE WAC 388-70-017

The Department through its staff shall interpret to the parent(s) and child, as appropriate, their legal rights and responsibilities:

1. Parents have the right to care, physical possession, and control of their child, and the right to administer reasonable disciplinary measures. They have responsibility to make far-reaching decisions regarding medical care, adoption, marriage, enlistment in the armed forces, residence of the child, religious affiliation of the child, as well as responsibility to represent him in legal actions. Concomitantly, parents have the duty to support and protect the child, to provide food, clothing, shelter, training, education, and medical care.

   a. When a parent enters into a voluntary agreement with a child welfare agency for placement of his child, he retains his full rights and duties with the exception of those which he agrees to delegate to an agency, and which the agency undertakes to provide in his stead. In situations of voluntary placement, the parent has the full right to have the child returned to him upon request.

   b. Even after a court has made an award of legal temporary custody of the child's person, residual parental rights are generally: the right to participate in the placement of its child, reasonable visitation, information about the child's whereabouts and condition, determination of religious affiliation, consent to adoption, inheritance, and the right to notice and appearance at judicial proceedings involving the child. Responsibility for financial support usually follows.

   c. In cases of deprivation and permanent wardship, there are no residual parental rights.

62.46 AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT OF CHILD IN FOSTER CARE AND DETERMINATION OF PARENTAL ABILITY TO SUPPORT

The Department's social service staff determines the need for foster care in all situations where the Department makes payment. This includes:

1. The direct placement of a child in a family foster home and supervising the placement.

2. The purchase of care from a private child placement agency, a group home or a maternity home.

3. A referral of a dependent child referred by a private child placement agency and supervised by the referring agency.

4. A referral of a dependent child by a juvenile probation officer of the juvenile court, which child is receiving the benefits of the probation subsidy program.

In all instances, except in those where the department or private agency has permanent custody because the parental rights of the parents have been legally terminated, the parent(s) must sign DSHS 14-05(X), Application and Authorization for Foster Care Services. Subsequent changes in placement and/or status of child will be reported on DSHS 6-15(X), Child in Foster Care Change in Status Report.

The social service worker will report all openings and termination of cases involving children in foster care on the DSHS 6-10(X) (6PA10), CWS Case Report and Payment Authorization, including referrals from the private child placement agencies. See instructions for forms.

62.48 USE OF APPLICATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR FOSTER CARE SERVICES, PAYMENT FOR FOSTER CARE AND PARENTAL SUPPORT OF CHILD IN FOSTER CARE

1. Application and Authorization for Foster Care Services

   a. Form DSHS 14-05(X) is required for every child for whom the DSHS makes a foster care payment. It is completed by either the caseworker or parole counselor of DSHS or the caseworker of a licensed private agency. It is usually completed at the time of the first interview with parent(s) during preplacement planning.

   b. The parent(s) must be informed that they will be required to contribute towards the cost of foster care, and that they will be contacted by the Office of Support Enforcement Enforcement in regards to support.

   c. If neither parent can be contacted, such as child abandonment, the service worker completes form insofar as possible. See instructions to form.

   d. Three copies of the form are sent to financial services, including referrals from private agencies.

   e. The standards of payment for foster family care for children eligible for departmental support apply equally to foster family homes under

the direct supervision of the department and those under the supervision of voluntary child care agencies. See Section 62.100 for other foster care rates.

2. Payment for Foster Care

a. Payment is made for foster care only when the department's service staff has determined need for foster care, the child is in the legal custody of the department or a voluntary child placing agency, or the child's parent(s) have voluntarily requested placement and supervision by the department.

EXCEPTION--Payment is made to foster parents, except those residing in King County, for a nonadjudicated delinquent child placed by a probation officer of the juvenile court, only when the child has been receiving the benefits of the probation subsidy program, is in need of a foster care placement and would lose the benefits of the subsidy program if its relationship with the probation officer was disrupted.

b. All persons and agencies to whom the department makes payment must be appropriately licensed and approved, or if not subject to licensing, be certified or otherwise approved as meeting licensing and/or other appropriate requirements adopted by the department.

c. Payment is made for out-of-state foster care placements only after approval from the two state offices involved.

d. In all instances, authorization of payment is the responsibility of financial serivces.

e. A foster care payment is effective the date a child is placed in care if an application for foster care services is received in financial services within seven working days of placement. If an application is not received within seven working days of placement, the effective date of care is the date the application is received in financial services.

f. A foster care payment for a child who reached age 18, in school under a juvenile court order, may be continued through the end of the school year immediately following his eighteenth birthday. The school year runs from July 1 to June 30. A child who meets the above criteria except for being in placement because of a court order, applies for general assistance as specified in Manual F, Sec. 29.25.

g. Department rates are maximum payment allowable to foster homes or child care agencies and may not be supplemented through contribution from parents or other sources. Any payment received will be made payable to and forwarded to the Office of Support Enforcement District Field Office where they will be treated as a recovery of state funds.

3. Parents' Obligation to Support Child

Parents of child in foster care paid by the department satisfy their legal obligation to support their children (see 388-70-075 WAC):

a. When there is a superior court order for support by paying the amounts specified in the order or the amount of the foster care payment, whichever is lesser, or

b. In the absence of a superior court order, by paying the amount determined and promulgated in Chapter 388-11 WAC.

The Office of Support Enforcement is responsible to enforce support obligations as to children in foster care paid for by the department. This is accomplished by:

a. Financial services submits to the District Office of Support Enforcement one copy of the DSHS 14-05(X) for every foster care placement paid by the department.

b. A copy of the superior court order when child in placement by court order shall be sent to financial from ongoing services.

c. All departmental recommendations to a court regarding parental participation toward the cost of foster care will be in accordance with the scale of minimum contributions in WAC 388-11-190.

d. All payments for the benefit and/or costs of care of a child receiving foster care shall be paid to the OSE. WAC 388-70-082.

62.50 REFERRAL GUIDELINES FROM STATE SCHOOLS OF CHILD IN NEED OF FOSTER CARE

Guidelines and procedures involved in the determination of need, the development of a case plan, the placement process and post-placement services are the same for all children under the direct supervision of the LO regardless of the source of referral.

The referral process is as follows:

1. Referral from a Correctional Facility

a. A child in a state correctional facility and in need for a foster care placement shall be referred to the juvenile parole counselor in the local office serving the area where the parents reside. Subsequent placement shall be made by a caseworker or a parole counselor of the local office.

b. A summary including information related to child's adjustment while in the institution, including academic progress; pertinent medical, psychological or psychiatric reports; identifying information of child and his family; a statement why the child's own home is not available

or suitable and the institution's recommendation for needed services during the parole period shall be submitted to LO by the state school.

2. A Referral from a State School for the Mentally Retarded

A child in a state school for the mentally retarded who should live in a local community, who can attend the special educational classrooms of the public schools shall be referred to the LO where the parents reside. If the parents have left the state, the referral will be made to the LO where the parents resided prior to their leaving the state. It is desirable that the school make the referral three months before anticipated placement.

Procedures Pertinent to Referral and Post-Placement Services

a. The school submits a summary giving the reason why the child's own home is considered inappropriate, complete identifying information of child and its family, behavior of the child, and evaluation of child's medical and social history and any special care the child may need.

b. The LO service worker should visit the child at the school and discuss needs of the child with school staff.

c. In all instances the service worker shall obtain a consent for placement from the parent(s) of child prior to placement.

d. After placement the LO worker shall send quarterly reports, more if indicated, to the school in relation to child's adjustment in foster care.

e. Should the child fail to adjust, service worker and school staff shall decide jointly whether child should be returned to school or replaced.

f. When adjustment is successful again, a decision is made jointly in relation to termination of commitment in order that custody may be transferred back to parent or guardian. If that cannot be done, the superior court should be petitioned to give custody to the department.

3. A Referral from Schools for the Deaf or Blind

A dependent child attending the State School for the Deaf or Blind is eligible for clothing and personal incidentals on the same basis as a child in foster care. When child has no own home to return to when ready to leave school or for summer vacation, the child may be referred to LO for placement in foster care.

a. Prodedures - same as for the handicapped child at school for the mentally retarded.

62.52 JUVENILE PROBATION SUBSIDY PROGRAM

The Juvenile Probation Subsidy Program is a state-county program designed to improve and enrich probationary supervision and services provided delinquent and predelinquent youth by the juvenile courts in the state of Washington. The goal of the program is to reduce the necessity for commitment of juveniles to the state correctional facilities by strengthening and improving the supervision of juveniles placed on probation by the juvenile courts of the state.

The program encourages the courts to develop a wide range of special programs such as counseling, contracts for psychiatric, psychological and medical services, special day care centers, vocational and educational programs, tutoring services, extensive use of volunteers, work and recreational programs, and educational counseling.

Subsidy funds are not available to pay the costs of foster care, except medical, in all counties except King.

1. DSHS Policy in Relation to the Juvenile Probation Subsidy Program - WAC 388-70-022

   On occasion one of the components of a youth's treatment plan is the need for a placement outside the youth's own or relatives' home. An exception to "payment policy" is allowed if following criteria are met:

   a. The child is a nonadjudicated delinquent placed in a foster family home licensed by the department.

   b. The youth has been the recipient of the Probation Subsidy Program and would lose the continuing benefits of program if placement and supervision were the responsibility of LO and the established therapeutic relationship between the probation counselor and the youth would be lost.

   c. The parent(s) and probation counselor discuss the "time-liited placement plan" with an LO worker and form 14-05(X) is completed and signed.

   d. The youth is placed in a licensed foster family home.

   e. The probation counselor submits a progress report to the department on a quarterly basis and keeps the LO informed as to any changes in treatment plan.

   f. The LO process the application following same procedures as any other child in foster care.

62.54 PLACEMENT IN A BOARDING SCHOOL

A youth may be placed in an accredited boarding school in lieu of a foster care facility, by either an LO worker or private agency worker, if the school is willing to waive the tuition fee. In some instances the school has a work plan whereby the youth can earn all or part of the costs of tuition.

1. Boarding Schools within State

   a. If school is outside of child's home county, the case for supervisory purposes will be transferred to LO serving the geographical area.

   b. The school's actual board and room costs will be met unless it exceeds the regular rate for board and room in a foster family home.

   c. The LO worker shall inform the child that he/she will receive an allowance for clothing and personal incidentals each month. Worker should make arrangements in advance with the school as to how the allowance is to get to the child.

2. Boarding Schools Out-of-State

   Payments are not made to out-of-state boarding schools except federal boarding schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. These schools are available for the education of Indian children receiving service from the department when other resources are not available or do not meet the needs of the particular child involved.

   The department may provide personal incidentals and the monthly replacement clothing allowance while the child is in school if the following criteria are met:

   a. Planning for placement of the child in an out-of-state federal boarding school did involve the child, the child's parents, the representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the LO caseworker.

   b. The child was either in foster care or was a member of a family receiving AFDC.

   c. All financial resources available to the child, such as OASDI or Indian Benefits were taken into consideration.

   d. An Indian federal boarding school was considered a better educational resource for the child than that which was available in his home community.

   e. The LO caseworker is to be involved in planning for the child's return to his home community (e.g., summer employment and continuation of school plans).

   f. The caseworker must inform child and notify school that the two allowances are for the child.

   Transportation costs to and from school are granted only on an exception basis and only when other funds are not available.

62.56 FOSTER FAMILY CARE FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Washington school laws provide educational opportunities for all handicapped children. Occasionally a school district, especially in rural areas, may not have an educational resource to fit the needs of the child involved. In such instances:

1. The school district pays the child's parents or the child's guardian, or the foster parent transportation costs to the school district in which the educational resource is available.

2. When payment of transportation is not practical, the school district will make a board and room payment to a foster home for care in lieu of transportation costs, if the child is placed in a licensed foster home.

   The room and board rate paid by the school district will generally be the same as that paid by the department for foster family care. Where the rate required for the child's care exceeds our rate for foster family care, the school district may also meet this, obtaining approval from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. This department will not supplement whatever rate is paid by the school. The department has no financial responsibility for children who are placed in foster care for the purpose of enabling them to meet their educational needs.

3. When payment for transportation is not a satisfactory arrangement for a handicapped child already in foster care under the supervision of the department, the originating school district will make arrangements for the child to be transferred to the school district which will meet its educational needs. The LO will make arrangements for the child to be placed in a foster home in the school district to which he is transferred. The department will be responsible for making payment to the foster home selected.

4. Where the school district refers the parents to the LO, the office will provide the parents with the names of the homes in the area which are already licensed, or license a home the parents may have found, if that home is licensable. The LO will be responsible for supervising the home in relation to the licensing requirements. The child's parents shall select the home, make the placement, and work directly with the foster parents and the originating school district in respect to their child.

5. Payment will be made by the school district when the only need for foster care arises from the need for an education. The department will pay the cost of foster care if the primary reason for placement in foster care is one cited in WAC 388-70-014(1).

As a rule of thumb, where the child is in care only five days a week, returning home on weekends, holidays, and for the summer, the placement should be considered to be one made to meet the child's educational needs and the school district shall be responsible for the total payment.

Where the social reasons for the placement predominate and the child must remain in foster care continuously, the department shall be responsible for payment.

62.58 PLACEMENT IN WHICH THE PARENTS CARRY THE SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY

Occasionally parents request help from the department in locating a suitable foster home for its child for a temporary period of time. The parent(s) plan to maintain full responsibility for supervision and payment of care.

Areas to be discussed are:

1. Parents' responsibility to make arrangements in respect to amount of payment, obtaining medical care, discipline and religious training and visiting and arrangements for holidays.

2. Type of foster parents wanted, age, standards, geographical area, etc.

3. Provide the parent(s) with names and addresses. (Call foster parent, if possible, to determine interest and availability.)

If the parents decide to use the foster home facilities offered, the LO advises them that the caseworker will visit the foster home only to evaluate the care the foster parents are giving to the child and to renew the license.

62.66 PLACEMENT OF CHILD IN FOSTER FAMILY HOME

Placement of child in a foster family serves different purposes:

1. Emergency care for not more than thirty days;

2. Time-limited care while the natural family is being helped to improve the home situation and prepare for the child's return;

3. Time-limited preadoptive care;

4. "Permanent foster family" care on a planned basis, agreed upon in writing by all parties; and

5. Specialized or treatment-oriented care of mentally, physically, and emotionally handicapped children.

Case Plan

The case plan is developed for all children in foster family care regardless

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of whether the child is a ward of the court, in the Department's custody or the parents have voluntarily requested placement.

1. The service worker shall obtain relevant information regarding parent(s) and child in order to understand the problem, reach a joint decision with parent(s) and child, if appropriate, regarding service needed and makes and implements a sound plan for the child and his parent(s) for placement and final objective of service.

   a. In involuntary situations, child has been removed from own home by court order, the service worker shall review the reason for the removal and the parent(s)' version of the facts and explain the Department's responsibility to help parent(s) and the ways in which the service worker and parent(s) work together.

   b. In voluntary placements the service worker helps parent(s) to clarify presenting problem and the services actually needed by parent(s) and child. When placement is indicated, there must be clarification of the type of foster care most suited for the particular child involved.

2. A sound plan is based on the selection of foster family home which will best meet child's needs with preference given for a home of the child's own ethnic background.

3. There shall be a tentative, time-limited objective for child to return to own improved home situation, or termination of parental rights and placement for adoption or a planned permanent foster family agreement completed.

62.70 POST-PLACEMENT GUIDELINES

Services during placement shall provide support and development assistance to the natural parent(s) and the child.

1. Services to natural parent(s) during placement shall:

   a. Enhance parental functioning through:

      (1) Recognition of parent(s)' feelings toward separation, guilt, conflict aroused by their inability to fulfill parenting role, necessity for placement, and parent-child relationships.

      (2) Helping parent(s) to develop more constructive parent-child relationships.

   b. Enhance parent(s) adjustment as an individual and ability to cope by utilizing counseling and referral to other community resources for help with health - physical and mental, jobs, marital conflicts and home management.

c. Plan for child in foster home regarding visiting, health, education, etc.

d. Help manage visiting so as to encourage (when it is in the child's best interest) the maintenance of parent-child relationship and promote possibility of child's return to own home within the set time limit.

e. Maintaining placement for as long as it is in the best interest of the child and his family.

f. When it is not to the best interest of the child to return to own home, working toward voluntary relinquishment or termination of parental rights and placement in adoption.

(1) When the Department is the petitioner for termination of parental rights, the service worker shall have reviewed with the parent(s) the reasons for the petition, prior to submitting the information to the court.

g. Work toward parent(s)' acceptance of permanent foster family agreement for child who cannot constructively return home or be placed for adoption in a reasonable time.

2. Services to the child during placement shall:

a. Help child understand why its family placed him and in accepting placement situation and adjust to foster family.

b. Maintain healthy relationship with own family, or when indicated, gain some comfort in letting them go.

c. Assist with problems child may be experiencing such as:

(1) Stress situations during which the child may need special help including loss, separation, medical care, hospitalization and other unavoidable disturbing experiences, and social or school problems.

(2) Child's anxiety and lack of adjustment to placement situation and foster family.

(3) Stability of social worker and parent(s)' contacts and relationship such as change of worker, etc.

(4) Degree of presenting problems and/or maladjustment of child throughout placement.

(5) Worker's ability to identify and prevent possible damaging situations from arising which might hurt the child.

d. Specific care and treatment to be provided for child when indicated, such as:

(1) Health services including complete physical examination at time of placement, appropriate medical care when ill, and dental care.

(2) Remedial reading, speech or hearing difficulties, special tutoring, using all services available in the community.

(3) Educational opportunities in accordance with the individual needs and potentials of the child.

(4) Vocational counseling for older children should be available to allow children of high school age to prepare for future economic independence.

(5) Religious experience which does not conflict with the broad religious preference of the child's parent(s) shall be available.

3. Replacement of the Child

If replacement becomes necessary, the process outlined in the initial placement guidelines shall be followed with an emphasis on adequate communication between the worker, parent(s), child and foster parent(s).

4. Permanent Planning for Child in Foster Care

Every child needs a home of his/her own. When the child's own home cannot care for him, or he has no home to return to, the service worker shall petition the court for a permanent order which may involve the termination of parental rights through the legal deprivation process if the parent(s) will not relinquish on a voluntary basis.

a. When parental rights have been terminated the child will be registered in SO by submitting form DSHS 9-235(X). (Registry for Legally Freed Children).

b. The ongoing service worker will have the responsibility to immediately develop a permanent, long-term plan for the child, such a plan would be:

1) adoption by foster parents, (submit Foster Parent Adoption Report 10PA09)

2) refer to SO for State Registration either through a regular placement in an adoptive home or through the adoption support demonstration project (Manual G - Chapter 34 - Adoption).

3) when it has been determined that adoption is not feasible or suitable, the service worker shall make every effort to place the child in a permanent foster family home.

5. Permanent Foster Family Agreement

A permanent foster family plan with written agreement signed by the foster family, the department, the child and significant family members shall be effected in cases where the facts prove that a child cannot be returned to his family within a reasonable time or placed for adoption within a reasonable time. (Section 62.76)

6. Termination of Foster Family Care

The department shall continue services by agreement or transfer responsibility for such services when a child or youth moves into another situation such as:

a. Another type of foster care,

b. Independent living arrangements,

c. Placement with relatives,

d. Adoption by foster parents,

e. Adoption placement.

The preparation of the child for termination of placement shall follow basically the same process as in preparation for placement and shall include:

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a. Discussion of the fact that the child's parent(s) have been able to make a plan for the child's return to own home.

b. Support and assistance in working out feelings about return to own home and separation from foster family.

c. Pretermination visits with own parent(s) prior to post-placement.

d. Plans for visiting with former foster family.

e. If termination is a result of the child's coming of age and establishing independent living situation, plans shall be developed for:

(1) Living arrangements.

(2) Employment.

(3) Vocational training and/or further education.

(4) Continuing relationships with foster family and/or natural parents.

62.72 EVALUATIONS OF CASE PLAN

The Department shall ensure that the preplacement and post-placement processes are effective in establishing a suitable permanent plan, helping parents and children master the separation and placement experiences, developing in the child a realistic conviction of his own worth and making it possible for him to reach his potential.

1. The service worker shall review case planning with parent(s) on a quarterly basis.

2. At one year in placement the service worker shall review with natural parents, child (when applicable) and foster parents (when applicable) alternative plans to foster family care.

62.76 PERMANENT FOSTER FAMILY CARE

Placement in a permanent home provides a period of care to a child on a planned basis when there is no foreseeable possibility of adoption or return to his own home and when extended care is the best casework plan for the child. The purpose of the permanent home is to assure the child of continuity of care and relationships by one set of parents who want him and have the intention of rearing him. The agency should be prepared to maintain the placement as long as it is in the best interests of the child. Such children have usually been with the foster parents for a number of years.

1. Planning for Permanent Foster Family Care

It is essential that permanent care be planned with all participants: the child, the foster parents, the natural parents and the juvenile court. It is insufficient to designate an existing placement as permanent becuase it has gone on for several years, without conscious planning. The ESSO may proceed with permanent planning with foster parents and child only when the following conditions are met:

a. The child is in the permanent custody of the Department; i.e., the child is legally free for adoption.

b. Adoption is neither feasible nor possible. The record shall substantiate why adoption is neither feasible nor possible including what previous efforts have been made to place the child for adoption.

(1) If the child is registered with the DSHS adoption exchange, his name must be withdrawn when permanent foster care planning is definite. Form DSHS 15-21(X), Adoptive Program Change of Status Report, will be sent to SO.

c. The child has resolved major conflicts with his natural family and has the capacity to form, or already has done so, constructive relationships with the foster family.

d. There is a desire by the foster parents and child to remain together although adoption by foster parents is not an alternative plan.

In most cases the child will have been in the foster home for some time; however, there should be formal recognition of the permanency of the placement when the above conditions are met. Such recognition shall be provided on form DSHS 10-40(X) Permanent Care Agreement.

Ongoing supervision of the permanent foster placement will be focused on strengthening and maintaining relationships between the foster family and the child. Contacts will be primarily with the foster family and the frequency of contacts shall be planned with the family. It is expected that permanent placements are reasonably stable and will not require contact at more frequent intervals than the one every six months case review period.

62.100 PAYMENT STANDARDS FOR FOSTER CARE

1. Foster Family Care

The Department's rate of payment to foster family homes for the care of a child is the same for a private agency placement, if the ESSO service worker has concurred that the placement was necessary and appropriate.

Types of foster family care include full-time foster homes (regular), receiving homes and specialized foster family homes.

a. Regular foster family care (effective 7-1-75)

BOARD AND ROOM PAYMENTS rates in a foster home are:

	Monthly Rate
Child, less than 6 years.....	$ 83.00
Child, 6 through 11 years.....	$107.00
Child, 12 years or older.....	$130.00

For the purpose of computing board payment, the child's birthdate is considered as the first of the month in which his birthday occurs.

b. Receiving home care (effective 7-1-75)

The two types of placements in receiving homes are emergency and regular. The fee for payment to a receiving home is:

$25.00 per month for each child for whom the home is licensed, and

$6.44 per day for temporary care actually provided each child.

Other criteria:

(1) Receiving home care is very temporary care and should not exceed 30 days.

(2) After 30 days the rate for regular foster family care will be paid unless an exception to policy is approved by SO. An exception should always be requested when the delay of placement is beyond the control of the service worker such as foster home has been selected but placement cannot be effected until a later date, or a second court hearing has been scheduled and child is to be detained.

(3) Monthly clothing and personal incidental allowances are not provided; however, clothing and personal incidentals are to be purchased as needed by the individual child.

c. Specialized foster family care (effective 7-1-75)

In addition to the basic rate for board and room the following maximum amounts may be allowed the child in need of special and specific needs:

(1) The Grossly Retarded or Severely Handicapped Child.....up to $92.00 (Maximum)

(2) The Emotionally Disturbed Child.....up to $62.00 (Maximum)

(3) The Disturbed Adolescent.....up to $31.00 (Maximum)

d. Clothing and personal incidentals for a child in foster family care

(1) Initial Supply - The ESSO does not purchase an initial supply of clothing or personal incidentals at the time of placement in a regular or specialized foster family home. Clothing and other items may be purchased only by SO policy exception.

(2) Monthly Allowance - $11.30 is the monthly allowance made to foster parents for the replacement of clothing.

(3) Monthly Allowance - $13.55 is the monthly allowance for personal incidentals. This includes school supplies.

2. Foster Group Care (Group Homes and Children's Institutions)

Payment for group care is made to the following approved agencies and at the given rate which includes allowances for clothing and personal incidentals:

a. Institutions and Group Homes

Code	Voluntary	Daily Rate	Monthly Rate
5-03	Alpha House #2 (effective 4/1/75)	17.51	532.55
5-31	Alpha House #1	14.35	436.55
5-88	Antonian School No. 1	15.08	459.05
5-17	Awareness House	9.37	285.00
5-40	Bailie Memorial Ranch	10.58	321.85
5-23	Bayview Homes	11.56	351.70
5-53	Blue Mountain Boy's Ranch	21.25	646.40
5-19	Booth Care Center - Group Home	10.99	334.25
5-97	Boys Village - Seattle	11.84	360.25
5-10	Boys Village - Rocking Arrow Ranch	11.91	362.30
5-66	Boyville Ranch (effective 7/1/75)	11.04	335.75
5-27	Bridge Receiving Home	15.76	479.35
5-86	Bucklin Hill	15.41	468.70
5-41	Camp Columbia	17.79	541.05
5-56	Catherine Blake Home	11.18	339.95
5-75	Catholic Children's Services; Bellingham Group Home	14.17	431.05
5-11	Catholic Children's Services; Tacoma Group Home	12.98	395.00
5-98	Central Area Group Home Project	16.46	500.65
5-33	Children's Industrial Home	17.94	545.85
5-12	Clemen's Group Home	9.37	285.00
5-61	Cobb Center for Youth	26.54	807.40
5-21	Cross J Ranch	13.17	400.50
5-34	Deaconess Children's Home	19.99	608.20
5-20	Epton House	9.16	278.70
5-25	Faith Group Home	11.77	358.00
5-28	Friends of Youth, Inc.	24.19	735.95

Code	Voluntary	Daily Rate	Monthly Rate
5-52	Galland Hall (effective 9/8/75)	25.58	778.20
5-38	Gilcrest Center	25.58	778.20
5-35	Good Shepherd Home, Spokane	15.65	476.05
5-36	Grays Harbor Boy's Home	16.10	489.80
5-57	Grotto Cerebral Palsy Home	5.34	162.40
5-67	Group Homes of Washington-Stuart Hall	14.45	439.65
5-79	Holden Village	12.45	369.50
5-18	Ingrum Group Home	9.37	285.00
5-74	Irene Weber Home	15.39	468.05
5-39	Jessie Dyslin	11.63	353.75
5-82	Kitsap Youth Homes, Inc.	13.35	406.20
5-51	Kiwanis Boys Home	12.53	381.05
5-42	Luther Child Center	26.30	800.00
5-63	Morning Star Boys Ranch	11.18	340.05
5-70	OK Boy's Lodge	16.20	492.85
5-80	Pierce County Homes for Youth	16.03	487.55
5-84	Rampart School, Inc.	9.37	285.00
5-68	Rando Manor	17.11	520.50
5-43	Regina Hall	9.47	288.05
5-44	Ruth School for Girls	22.58	687.00
5-45	Ryther Child Center	21.44	652.35
5-47	St. Anne's Infant Home, Spokane (rate for ill children)	18.41	560.15
5-46	St. Ann's Home, Tacoma	17.33	527.25
5-48	St. Joseph's Children's Home	10.91	331.90
5-49	Seattle Children's Home	24.11	733.40
5-60	Shamrock Acres, Inc.	14.20	431.85
5-76	Silo Ranch	12.55	382.45
5-71	Skagit Group Ranch Home	14.75	448.60
5-81	Skyways for Youth Homes	10.42	317.00
5-37	The Ark	26.75	813.85
5-77	The Bridges Group Home	13.02	396.15
5-22	The Family House	9.37	285.00
5-13	The Source Foundation	19.33	587.90
5-93	Toutle River Boy's Ranch	17.18	522.55
5-29	Tri-Cities Group Homes	11.83	359.75
5-94	Windy Valley Ranch Home	13.04	396.70
5-85	Youth Homes Association, Inc.	12.40	377.15
5-90	Youth Outreach, Inc.	18.69	568.45

b. <u>Institutions and Group Homes</u>

Code	Proprietary	Daily Rate	Monthly Rate
5-72	Abernathy Girls' Home	22.44	682.75
5-10	Ahtanum Ridge Boys Home	9.37	285.00

Code	Proprietary	Daily Rate	Monthly Rate
5-15	Alternative Services for Juveniles	9.37	285.00
5-69	Arrowhead Boys' Home	11.10	337.70
5-73	Bar 41 Ranch Group Home	16.23	493.70
5-24	Brickenwood, Inc.	20.01	603.85
5-78	Diamond G. Boys' Ranch	11.90	361.85
5-26	Duncan's Home	7.94	241.60
5-95	Evergreen Homes	14.25	433.45
5-92	Flying H Youth Ranch	11.09	337.25
5-65	J Bar D Boys Ranch	14.78	449.65
5-14	Karum Group School	15.26	464.30
5-50	Kamp Kachess Youth Services	17.00	517.05
5-96	Northwest Youth Enterprises	15.57	473.50
5-30	Olympic View Group Home	9.37	285.00
5-83	Phase II Group Home	9.51	289.35

c. Maternity Homes (Effective July 1, 1975)

Requirements for clothing, personal incidentals and the needs of the infant are included in the cost standards. Following is a list of licensed agencies and rates:

Code		Daily Rate	Monthly Rate
6-72	Booth Care Center		
	(Mother Only)	10.99	334.30
	(Infant Only)	1.60	48.70
	(Mother and Infant)	12.59	383.00
6-79	Deporres Manor	11.75	357.55
6-81	Faith Maternity Home	11.77	358.00
6-83	Ruth School for Girls-Maternity Care	22.58	687.00
6-75	St. Anne's Maternity Home	13.98	423.10

Plan B medical for all agencies except:

Ryther Child Center	.16	5.00
Seattle Children's Home	.16	5.00

d. Payment for care of child in boarding school (effective July 1, 1975)

A board and room allowance of up to $107 per month is paid for children 6 through 11 years and up to $130 per month for children 12 years and over. Provision is also made for monthly replacement clothing and personal incidental needs of the child at the rate paid for regular foster care.

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The foster family home clothing and personal incidental clothing allowances are allowed for a child placed in an Indian federal boarding school.

3. Temporary Absence of Child from Foster Care - WAC 388-70-054

When a child is temporarily absent from a foster care facility, and with private agency or Department approval of plan to hold the facility for the child, the actual days of absence up to (and not more than fifteen days) will be paid by the Department. Examples of such absences are visit of child to own home, hospitalization, camp experience and runaways.

a. Runaways
When a child who is a ward of the court and in the custody of the Department or a private agency runs away and is located in another state, responsibility for planning remains with the Department. If there are no financial resources to provide return transportation, an exception for payment of costs is requested.

When the parents of a runaway child have legal custody of that child and reside in the state of Washington, their ability to pay the cost of returning the child to this state is determined by applying the Department's standards in WAC 388-11-190.

4. Payment for Foster Care to Family Receiving Public Assistance - WAC 388-70-062

When a child is placed in foster care with a family receiving public assistance, the payments to the foster family for the child's board, clothing, and personal incidentals shall not be considered a resource to the family.

5. Payment for Foster Care to Relative - WAC 388-70-064

Foster care funds shall not be expended for a child living with a relative eligible to receive AFDC on behalf of the child. If a child not eligible for AFDC is placed in the home of a relative, his care is paid from state foster care funds. Homes of relatives eligible to receive AFDC need not be licensed, those paid from state foster care funds must be licensed.

6. Foster Care Out-of-State Payment Authorization - WAC 388-70-066

a. With the consent of the state office Family and Children's Services Section, foster parents may be permitted to remove from the state a child who is in a permanent foster home. If the child is a ward of the court, permission from the court must also be obtained. When the foster family moves to another state, arrangements with another social agency for supervision of the foster home placement are required. Such arrangements for supervision are not required when the family leaves the state during a vacation. Payments are continued at the Department's current rates. See Section 62.204.

b. When a child who is legally a resident of the state of Washington is placed in foster care in another state by the welfare department of that state, foster care payments are made at the rate requested by the state providing it does not exceed the Department's current rates if it is the best plan for the child to remain there. State office (F&CS) approval of out-of-state placement is required before payment is made.

7. Earnings of Foster Child - WAC 388-70-068

An older child in foster care may be wholly or partially able to meet the cost of his maintenance. The local office must discuss with the child and foster parents the amount of the child's earnings, the purposes for which they are spent, and come to some understanding whereby the child is helped to achieve financial independence in as constructive a way as possible. Any portion of the child's earnings which are saved must be for a specific purpose approved by the agency. Exempt earned income standards which apply to AFDC also apply in foster care. See WAC 388-28-535 (3).

8. Transportation and Other Expenses - WAC 388-70-056

When prearranged with the Department, foster parents shall be allowed transportation for medically related trips involving a foster child in their home. The Department, within available funds, will provide reimbursement at the same rate authorized for employees. In addition, actual costs of food and lodging if necessary in securing the medical care will be reimbursed.

a. Such an arrangement shall be recorded in child's record.

9. Overpayments of Foster Care - WAC 388-70-052

a. Overpayments resulting from foster care payments are treated the same as overpayments from other assistance programs except when such overpayments can be corrected from subsequent voucher payments. A letter notifying foster home or child care agency of the overpayment is always sent.

b. When correction cannot be made, the rules in WAC 388-44-010 through 388-44-130, except WAC 388-44-115 (4) (h), apply.

62.130 OTHER PROCEDURES RELATED TO POLICIES AFFECTING A CHILD IN FOSTER CARE

1. Determining Need for Receiving Homes

The number and type of receiving homes needed by each local office and private agency is directly related to the average number of new referrals for placement by age groupings and by sex, each month; the average number of replacements per month, average number of runaways, etc.

Receiving homes supported by the Department shall be limited to the number the local office administrator determines necessary in his geographical area. The criteria to be followed are:

a. Each department or private agency shall document its need for a receiving home and present the request in writing, giving the specifics, to the local administrator or to the regional administrator when more than one local administrator is involved.

b. All receiving homes shall be licensed as foster family homes.

c. Receiving homes are developed to provide care up to 30 days.

d. The need for receiving home(s) must carry a direct relationship to the Department's or private agency's type of program and service responsibilities.

e. The intent of the service is to allow the Department or private agency to develop and carry out a suitable plan for the child.

f. A child placed in a receiving home shall either be in the custody of the Department or private agency or there is written parental consent. In cases of self-referral, parental consent or approval of court is necessary before the child shall be accepted for care.

g. A child placed "in lieu of detention" shall be returned to his parents within three days. If the child is to remain in receiving home care longer than 72 hours, a petition must be filed in juvenile court.

h. Every six months the local administrator shall receive a written report on each receiving home, resubstantiating its continued use and need.

62.140 EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT (EPSDT) OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

In addition to the preplacement physical examination and medical care for illnesses or trauma which become apparent, children in foster care who have Medical Identification Booklets are eligible for early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment services under Title XIX.

1. Subsequent to the preplacement physical, the child in foster care will be eligible for the services of the program including:

   a. Screening (generally at yearly intervals, but may be more or less frequent depending on the needs of the child) by providers of screening services that have been authorized by the Health Services Division to provide at least the following items:

      (1) medical history
      (2) assessment of physical growth

(3) developmental assessment (physical and mental)
(4) inspection for obvious physical defects
(5) inspection of ears, nose, mouth, teeth and throat
(6) visual screening; auditory testing
(7) screening for cardiac abnormalities
(8) screening for anemia (including sickle cell trait)
(9) urine screening
(10) blood pressure (children 12 years of age or older)
(11) assessment of immunization status and updating immunization

b. When indicated by screening findings, providers of screening services will provide, or refer eligible children for more definitive diagnostic study and/or treatment.

c. Treatment shall be limited to the same amount, duration, and scope of care available to other recipients of Medical Assistance (MA), except regardless of any such limitations, eyeglasses, hearing aids, other kinds of treatment for visual and hearing defects, and at least such dental care as is necessary for relief of pain and infection and for restoration of teeth and maintenance of dental health shall be provided for those determined to be in need of such care, subject, however, to such utilization controls as may be imposed by the Department.

2. LO's will be informed by the SO Medical Care Specialist Unit regarding which providers have contracted to provide services and LO staff shall be responsible for arranging referrals to providers of screening services for children in foster care. (Children who are undergoing medical treatment for illness or other physical problems will probably not need the screening service while under care.)

3. The Social Service personnel of the Department shall upon receipt of notice that a child in foster care has been screened and the tests indicate the need for further evaluation of the child's physical or mental health, see that diagnostic studies, as necessary, are done.

a. The LO shall coordinate with the provider of screening services to either arrange for or ascertain that appropriate diagnostic or treatment services will be provided without delay.

b. Every individual found to have a possible health problem should be referred for diagnosis regardless of the limits of treatment under the State plan.

(1) Until a diagnostic examination has been done and recommendations for treatment made, it may not be known whether such treatment is included under the State plan.

c. When indicated, Social Services should inform the foster family how they can secure a diagnostic examination and then follow-up to make sure the individual receives the diagnostic evaluation.

(1) The provider of screening services may provide the diagnostic study if qualified to do so.

(2) The foster family may wish to have the child examined by the family physician or by another physician of its choice.

(3) The individual may be referred to any practitioner or facility qualified to evaluate and diagnose a young person's health problems and who has an agreement on file to provide services under Title XIX. These may be but are not limited to the following: crippled children's services, maternity and infant care projects, children and youth projects, a neighborhood health center, a comprehensive health service center, a rehabilitation center, and a hospital out-patient department.

4. Social Service staff should be aware that dental problems are so prevalent that most individuals will need a diagnostic evaluation and some treatment.

   a. The examination, diagnosis and treatment planning has to be the responsibility of legally qualified dental practitioners who have an agreement on file with Washington Dental Service to provide services under Title XIX, and their auxiliary personnel.

5. Social service staff should be aware that though diagnosis can usually be accomplished on an out-patient basis, the diagnostic procedure may use in-patient facilities if these are needed.

6. When treatment is recommended, social service staff as well as the medical assistance unit should be informed of the recommendations resulting from the diagnostic study.

   a. Coordination between the provider of the diagnostic study and the LO will be necessary to assure that one or the other assumes responsibility for ascertaining that treatment recommendations are pursued.

   b. Some foster families will need assistance in arranging for treatment even when it is not included under the State plan.

   c. For treatment not available under the medicaid program, the social service staff should work with staff members of other agencies as well as their own to assist the family in finding treatment resources outside the medicaid program. Where services which we do not provide are included, the LO should request an exception to policy.

62.152 REFERRAL BY LO TO PRIVATE CHILDREN'S AGENCY OR INSTITUTION

A summary is submitted at the time of application, giving pertinent information about the child and his family, his problem, and the reason the child needs the services of the agency to which he is being referred. When the private agency or institution provides its own casework, either by its own staff or the use of another casework agency, the LO uses this service for the child unless it is agreed on a conference basis that it would be better for the child to have the LO continue the casework. When the child welfare agency or institution does not have casework service, the LO will provide the casework service to the child.

When casework service is furnished by the private agency, a definite arrangement must be made in regard to progress reports from the agency, but in no case should this period exceed three months. A decision must be reached in respect to the kind of report which is needed and the frequency of the reports, both to and from the agency.

A definite understanding, in writing, must be reached with the child welfare agency or institution to which the child is referred outlining the conditions under which the child is accepted, the rate of payment (which must conform to the amount established for that agency), and which agency will work with the child's family.

The LO does not purchase an initial supply of clothing except on an exception basis.

62.156 CHILD REFERRED FOR ADOPTION

A child referred to a private agency for adoptive placement may remain in his foster home until placed in his adoptive home. After placement in an adoptive home is made payment is discontinued. If it is determined the foster boarding parent cannot constructively participate in the placement of the foster child in an adoptive home, the service worker will prepare the foster boarding home mother and the child for the visit of the worker from the adoptive agency. Conference will be held between the private agency and the LO in respect to final disposition as the study progresses. If it seems necessary, the child may be moved to an adoptive agency foster home for group living if the referral is accepted. When the referral is not accepted, the service worker makes other plans for the child.

An infant or very small child may be referred directly from a hospital or maternity home to an adoptive agency for placement when other requirements have been met (that is, the child is in good health, and the mother has arrived at a satisfactory decision to relinquish her child) so the private agency can place the child as soon as possible in an adoptive home. The LO will give as much information as possible to the mother in respect to the approved agencies so she may decide correctly.

62.160 REFERRAL OF CHILD FROM VOLUNTARY CHILD CARING AGENCY TO LO

The LO may accept the referral of children from a voluntary agency:

1. If the child is eligible for service from the LO. When the child is a ward of the court and under supervision of the voluntary child caring agency and the LO agrees to accept the child for supervision, the voluntary agency must petition the court for a change in the order so the LO is made responsible for the child, subject to further order of the court. The LO cannot accept a child until this action has taken place.

2. For payment and approval of the service plan with supervision of the child remaining with the voluntary agency under the following conditions:

   a. The voluntary agency must currently be licensed or if exempt from licensing must be certified as meeting licensing requirements,

   b. The child must be in financial need,

   c. The plan for the child must be approved by the LO and focused toward the establishment of permanent relationships: reuniting with his family, if possible; if not, an adoptive home, a permanent foster home, or other suitable plans according to the special need of the particular child.

62.164 REFERRAL PROCEDURES AND PROCESS

Each referral to the LO from a voluntary agency must include:

1. An initial referral summary and tentative plan. This initial referral summary should include:

   a. Identifying information regarding the child and his family (names, birthdates, race, religion, addresses, etc.). Birthdates and the spelling of names should be correctly recorded;

   b. A statement regarding custody or control of the child; if court action has taken place, a copy of the court order(s);

   c. The reasons making it necessary for the child to live away from his own home and need for the particular type of care and treatment which is proposed. Include a statement of the problems and circumstances leading to referral.

2. A completed form DSHS 14-05 (14PA05F), Application for Foster Care Payment, in quadruplicate. (If the child's parents cannot be contacted, the DSHS 14-05 (14PA05F) should be completed by the VA to the extent possible and submitted to the LO. The balance of the information should then be submitted within 30 days of the child's placement.)

Referral is made to the LO of the county where the child was living with his parent(s) (home county except as outlined below).

Referral of an infant relinquished to a voluntary agency for adoption should be made to the LO of the county where the child currently resides. The referral summary for such infant need include only items 1. a. and 1. b. above and a statement concerning plans for adoptive placement; any impediments to immediate adoptive placement and steps to be taken to overcome them should be specified.

62.168 SOCIAL SUMMARY

Emphasis in the Social Summary should be upon more fully outlining the need for foster care and more fully outlining the casework planning, including the long-range goal and intermediate objectives.

In the case of children referred to the VA by the court, the Social Summary should be submitted to the LO by the VA within 30 days of the child's placement. When a placement is a result of a voluntary placement on the part of a parent, the VA should submit this information with the initial referral summary.

The following information should be included:

1. Present living arrangements of the child and previous placements, if any;

2. A description of the child, including handicaps (if any), health, school placement and adjustment; psychological and psychiatric report (if available); description of the child's personality, behavior, special needs;

3. Discussion of the family as a group, with emphasis on the parents, interest and participation in the plan, and plans for casework services to the parents while the child is in foster care;

4. Possibility of current or future care with relatives, other than parents, or with foster parents or other interested persons. For interested persons, include a statement regarding their circumstances and interest in the child and plans for continuing contact with the child and agency; and

5. A statement of proposed care and treatment plan, to include long-term goals, short-term objectives, and time limits.

6. For an unwed expectant mother (see also Chapter 82) include information concerning the putative father of the unborn child and his ability to provide for the maintenance and medical care of the mother during her pregnancy and subsequent support for the child if not relinquished for adoption.

62.172 RESPONSIBILITY FOR CASEWORK WITH FAMILY

Generally, the agency having the child under care also carries primary responsibility for working with child's parents. However, under certain circumstances it may be preferable for LO to carry or share this responsibility, e.g., when the child's family remains an active AFDC case, and siblings of the child are in foster homes under the supervision of an LO or parents living in a county other than that in which VA is located. An agreeement must be reached as to which agency takes responsibility for casework with the parents. When responsibility for working with a child is shared by the two agencies, conferences shall be held as needed and progress reports exchanged every ninety days.

Where the LO provides casework services to a child in a voluntary agency setting and to that child's parents, conferences should be held with VA staff and quarterly reports should be submitted to the VA.

62.176 CONFIRMATION OF REFERRAL -- DATE AND RATE OF PAYMENT

The LO or VA to whom referral is made shall confirm in writing whether or not the child will be accepted for care or payment and if accepted, the conditions of acceptance which should include the amount to be paid, the frequency of progress reports, and who will work with the parents. Confirmation of acceptance by the department is made by returning a completed copy of form DSHS 14-05 (14PA05F) to VA by LO ongoing services section.

The effective date of payment for eligible children is the date of placement, provided the referral (form DSHS 14-05 (14PA05F) and accompanying referral summary) is received by LO within five working days after placement. If not received in five days, the effective date is the date of LO receipt.

The amount of state payment is the department established rate for the type of care provided less parental payments and other resources available to the child.

62.177 VOLUNTARY AGENCY PLACEMENTS -- PROGRESS REPORTS

Periodic progress reports to LO from voluntary agencies are required for all children for whom the Department of Social and Health Services makes payment in accordance with agreements made at the time of referral, but in no case should the reporting period exceed three months. The reports shall be related to the implementation of the casework plan, the child's continued need for foster care and current planning for future care. Also reported are changes in the child's family situation such as remarriage, separation, illness or death of parent(s), change in employment, etc. More specifically, each progress report shall include information which would indicate whether continued foster care is justified, namely:

An explicitly stated long-range plan;
Short-term objectives;
Time limits;
Changes in the child's adjustment;
Alternatives to foster care being considered; and
Work being done with the child's family where this was one of the conditions of acceptance.

Progress reports for children whose parents have had parental rights legally terminated shall include what is being done regarding impediments to adoption.

If no report is received by the end of the three-month period, or by the termination of whatever shorter reporting period may have been agreed to, no payment may be made until the report is received.

62.178 CHANGE OF STATUS REPORT

The voluntary agency immediately submits the original only of form 6PA15, Child in Foster Care - Change in Status Report, when foster care payment is terminated and when there is a change in the child's whereabouts, requirements or resources. (This form is to be returned to the voluntary agency after completion of Section VI.)

There will be a review of the parent(s); financial ability to support every six months, or at the time of a significant change in his finances -- whichever occurs first. All changes in the child's financial circumstances are reported to the department on form DSHS 6-15 (6PA15).

62.179 TRANSFER OF CHILD FROM ONE VA TO ANOTHER

The transfer of a child from one voluntary agency to another voluntary agency is considered a termination; the agency to which the child is transferred shall submit a new referral to the LO, if payment is desired.

62.204 INTERSTATE AND INTERCOUNTRY MOVEMENT OF CHILDREN AND INTERCOUNTY REFERRAL

The LO is involved in interstate and intercountry movement of children such as:

1. The LO furnishes any inquiring agency services in respect to obtaining information and in making an evaluation of the social situation when such services will be helpful in planning for children.

2. The LO may request service from an agency in another state. The APWA directory should be consulted as to whom to address such correspondence.

3. The LO may plan with other state agencies for the return of children to their own parent(s) or placed with other relatives residing in another state.

4. The LO may be involved in planning for placement of foreign children in the state of Washington under Refugee Relief Act.

5. The LO will be involved in intercountry and interstate placement of children in foster family and adoptive homes.

6. The LO may be involved in planning for runaway children.

62.208 PLACEMENT OF CHILD WITH A LEGAL PARENT OR OTHER RELATIVES OUTSIDE THE STATE

A child in foster care in this state may be returned to his parent or parents or other relative residing in another state providing:

1. The public agency in the receiving state has assessed the situation and agrees to the plan and will offer post-placement services if indicated.

2. The juvenile court has given its consent, if the child is a temporary ward of the court, and will return custody to the parents.

3. If the child is placed with relatives other than own parent, the legal parents should approve of the plan if they can be contacted.

4. The legally responsible relatives should pay for transporting the child to the other state. If financially unable to do so and there are no other financial resources, the LO may request an exception to policy. (See Manual F, Chapter 64.00).

5. Copies of all correspondence between the two agencies and/or relatives involved should be sent to SO.

62.212 PLACEMENT OF CHILD WITH A FOSTER FAMILY OUTSIDE THE STATE

A child whose parents have had parental rights legally terminated and who is in a permanent foster family home may move with his foster parents to another state after SO approval providing:

1. It has been determined that the foster family cannot adopt nor can the child be placed for adoption elsewhere.

2. The SO of the DPA and the SO of the agency of the receiving state have approved the plan.

3. The juvenile court of which the child is a permanent ward has given its consent.

4. The LO of the receiving state agrees to offer post-placement services and report placement progress to this state on a quarterly basis. Send copy of progress report to state office.

5. The LO accepts continuing legal responsibility for the child and signs an interstate agreement if requested.

6. If, after approval of the plan, the foster parents cannot provide the transportation costs, an exception must be requested. (See Manual F, Chapter 64.00.)

7. Makes foster family care payments on the basis of the Division of Public Assistance rates and continues to do so unless other state reports changes in child's financial resources.

8. Cooperates and is involved with other state in making other plan for child in case of a crisis in foster family home such as severe illness or death.

In requesting approval of the plan to place a child in foster family care outside the state, send copies to SO of all correspondence and the child's social study which were sent to the other state. SO approval will be given in writing with copy to General Audit.

62.216 PLACEMENT OF CHILD IN ADOPTIVE HOME OUTSIDE THE STATE

Through referrals from ARENA, LO's may place children out of the state in adoptive homes. See Manual G, Chapter 34, Adoption.

1. Usually the adoptive family comes to the state of Washington for the child or provides the costs of transportation to the LO. When this is not possible, the LO must request an exception to policy to cover transportation costs of child and, in some instances, child and worker to the other state. (See Manual F, Chapter 64.00.)

62.220 RUNAWAY CHILD

When a child who is a ward of the court and in the custody of the DPA runs away and is located in another state, responsibility for planning remains with the DPA. If there are no financial resources to provide transportation for his return, the LO requests an exception for payment of the costs. (See Manual F, Chapter 64.00.)

62.224 PLACEMENT OF OUT-OF-STATE CHILD IN ADOPTIVE OR FOSTER FAMILY HOME

A child is accepted from another state for adoptive or foster family care placement and post-placement services on the basis of the best

plan for the child. The following steps are taken for the protection of the child before final approval of the plan is given by the SO to send a child into the state of Washington.

1. History of the Child. There must be an adequate personal, family and health history of the child.

2. Legal Status. The legal status of the child is verified. If no one is legally responsible, he must be a ward of the court.

3. Legal Residence. The child's legal residence (which is that of his parents) and his parents' address is determined.

4. Medical Care. If the child comes to a person who does not have legal custody, such as a foster parent, it is necessary for the referring agency to provide written agreement that necessary dental, medical, and surgical care will be provided by that state while the child is in this state.

5. Home Study. If the child is to be placed in a foster family home, the LO makes a study of the home and the home should be licensed prior to placement.

6. Responsibility for a Dependent Child. The LO obtains approval from the referring agency for return of the child at its expense if he fails to make a satisfactory adjustment in this state.

7. Casework Plan. There must be a statement as to the possible length of time of the placement, the goals of placement and a statement of the payment plan, including definite itemized details. When the child arrives in the state of Washington and is placed in his new home, supervision is given as long as the child is, in our opinion, in need of casework service. Reporting is done as agreed to in the plan which is evaluated periodically.

8. When payment of foster care is indicated, the referring state must be responsible for payment of all costs including board and room, clothing and personal incidentals.

62.228 FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT MADE BY OTHER STATE FOR A WASHINGTON CHILD

A child has the same residence as its legally responsible parent(s). When LO is informed that a foster family placement made by another state has been made for a Washington child found in need of such care, the foster care payment may be paid providing:

1. The plan is best for the child. If resources for the child are equal or better in Washington, the LO should ask that the child be returned. If legally responsible relatives cannot provide for transportation, exception to policy should be requested. (See Manual F, Chapter 64.00.)

2. If child remains in foster family care in other state, foster care payments are made at the rate requested by other state providing it does not exceed Department rates. The parents of child must be contacted and their ability to support child in whole or in part must be determined.

3. No payment for care is made for group home care, children's institutions or maternity homes.

62.232 PLACEMENT OF FOREIGN CHILD IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON UNDER REFUGEE RELIEF ACT

The couple interested in sponsoring a child to be located overseas or one already known to them should first seek the services of an available local agency. When such persons come to the LO, the LO explores with them what it means to adopt a child and especially one from another country. If the applicants wish to proceed, the LO refers them to one of the following national voluntary agencies:

The American Branch of the
International Social Service, Inc.
345 East Forty-Sixth Street
New York, New York 10017

Catholic Committee for Refugees
265 West Fourteenth Street
New York, New York 10011

The national agency sends the applicants some information about the conditions under which foreign children can be brought here for adoption, and the regulations and procedures which must be followed. They also suggest that the family write the DPA for the name and address of an agency in this state to which they can apply if they decide to proceed with their plan to adopt a foreign child. The SO refers these applicants to the appropriate agency in their area.

62.236 PROCEDURES FOR INTERCOUNTY REFERRAL FOR FOSTER CARE

When it is necessary for a child to be placed outside his own county for a specific reason such as the need for medical facilities, the need for boarding school placement, the need to be removed from disturbed parents or relatives, the local office making the request for transfer communicates directly with the LO where placement is desired regarding the possibilities of placement. When placement plans have been completed, the referring LO immediately transfers the child's record, including the last processed form 5822-C, to the receiving LO. The referring LO:

1. Enters the date the child leaves foster care in the comments section of form 5822-C. The worker initials the comment.

2. Routes the case record, including form 5822-C, to the person responsible for vouchering for foster care payments in order that payment can be terminated.

3. Keeps the medical certification on the child open until a single closing form 5822-C is returned from the State Office.

4. Transfers the case record to the receiving local office.

5. In cases where the child has a trust account administered by the department, advises the Budget and Accounting Section by memorandum of the name of the child, the case number, and the county in which the child has been placed.

The LO to which a child is sent assumes full responsibility for the child and immediately submits form 5822-C showing either transfer in or transfer and terminate.

This policy does not apply to a child under supervision of a voluntary agency except for the child whose parents' legal rights have been terminated.