



## Policy: Voluntary Foster Care

**ChildNet Number: CN 004.034**

**Original Approved Date: June 10, 2006**

**Policy Revised Date(s): July 6, 2006, May 20, 2010**

**Policy Sunset Date:**

**COA Standard(s): none**

### Statement of Policy:

ChildNet assists families in exercising Voluntary Foster Care consistent with legal requirements.

**Board Chair's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

11/15/10



## Procedure: Voluntary Foster Care

**ChildNet Number: CN 004.034**

**Original Approved Date: June 10, 2006**

**Procedure Revised Date(s): July 6, 2006, May 20, 2010, August 9, 2012, April 10, 2013, June 10, 2014, February 21, 2018**

**Procedure Sunset Date:**

**COA Standard(s): none**

**Definitions (If any):**

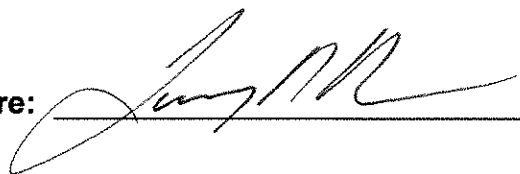
**Statement of Procedure:**

- A. A request for voluntary placement is to be directed to the Director of Intake and Placement, who in consultation with the Program Officer of Intake and Placement or designee and ChildNet Legal reviews the situation to make a determination as to the appropriateness in light of 65C-28.007 FAC and 39.701 F.S. for acceptance. As part of this assessment, the following is to occur:
1. Determine that no abuse or neglect exists which would require a child protective investigation, and that no history of chronic instability or maltreatment of the child exists.
  2. Ensure that services were not available which would have eliminated the need for an out of home placement.
  3. Determine that the placement will be temporary (no longer than 3 months).
  4. Ensure that relative or non-relative resources have been explored.
- B. The parent or legal guardian shall complete a financial affidavit prior to signing any voluntary foster agreement. A determination will be made as to what, if any, financial responsibility the parent or guardian shall have while the child is in voluntary foster care.
- C. When the child is placed into a foster home, the home should have the capacity to meet the child's needs. The child must be placed in the least restrictive, most family-like setting available, in close proximity to the home of the parents or custodian, and near the school that the child attended at the time of removal whenever possible.
- D. Once the parent or custodian signs the Voluntary Placement Agreement the child may be placed on voluntary foster care. The Voluntary Placement Agreement specifies the following:



1. The legal status of the child (parent's natural child; ward of legal guardian; immigration status if relevant).
  2. The child's date of birth.
  3. The rights, obligations and responsibilities of the parent or custodian, the child, and ChildNet while the child is in placement, including co-payment of board rate, if applicable.
  4. The conditions, under which the agreement would be breached, modified or terminated.
  5. The right of the parent or custodian to revoke the agreement and the obligation of ChildNet to return the child home or place the child with a relative or non-relative upon the request of the parents or custodian. If the Child Advocate/Dependency Case Manager determines this would place the child at risk, dependency procedures must be initiated at the time the request to return is made.
- E. The Director of Intake and Placement or designee is responsible for assisting all parties involved in the placement agreement to understand their roles and responsibilities.
- F. Voluntary Foster Care placement is intended to provide assistance to a family with issues which are anticipated to resolve within 90 days which begins on the date the Voluntary Foster Agreement is signed. If a child is not able to be placed back with his/her family due to concerns for the child's safety and well-being, the Child Advocate Supervisor/Dependency Case Manager Supervisor is to ensure the following:
1. Written authorization for a child to remain in Voluntary Foster Care for an additional 90 days (for a total of 180 day) is to be obtained from the Executive Director or designee prior to the lapse of the initial period. No further extensions beyond the 180 days is to be approved; by the 180<sup>th</sup> day, the child is to return home or judicial action sought.
  2. The status of any child who is to remain in out of home care beyond the 180 days must have a judicial review prior to the conclusion of the 180 day period in order to continue in the out-of-home placement, as is consistent with law. The judicial review must result in a judicial finding that placement with the parents is contrary to the welfare of the child and reasonable efforts to prevent removal have occurred.

President's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 02-27-18