

Placement Advocacy

Advocating for the Most Connected Placement: A Guide to Reducing the Use of Group Care

This Guide is intended to be a practical tool that can be used by attorneys and advocates to ensure that youth are in living settings where they can be connected with family, the community, and a support system. We will refer to this as “the most connected placement.” The tool is divided into fifteen questions and principles to guide your analysis and offer different points of intervention during the course of a case. Each section provides concrete suggestions for actions you can take in and out of court to get your clients in the most connected placements where they can have their needs met and thrive. It also provides the legal and social science authority to support the suggested actions.

Youth Law Center & Juvenile Law Center

<https://ylc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Connected-Placements-Toolkit.pdf>

Impact of Kinship Care on Permanency Outcomes

These resources address practices and programs that promote stability and positive permanency outcomes for children in kinship care.

Child Welfare Information Gateway

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/permanency/relatives/impact/>

Kinship Care is Better for Children and Families

The idea of family members assisting and supporting each other is not new. This is a traditional practice in most cultures. The foster care system is starting to incorporate kinship care as a permanency option for children. Efforts are underway to remove barriers to kinship placements, including removing bureaucratic processes and streamlining legal proceedings to allow relatives to safely care for children and maintain important family connections. Efforts are also beginning to examine foster care licensing requirements, supports, and services for kin, and approaches to complex family dynamics that affect kin and their ability to care for children.

American Bar Association (2017)

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/child_law/resources/child_law_practice_online/child_law_practice/vol-36/july-aug-2017/kinship-care-is-better-for-children-and-families/

Placement of Children with Relatives

This publication presents an overview of State laws that give priority or preference to relatives when children are in need of out-of-home care. The issues addressed include locating relatives, determining the fitness of a relative to provide care, and requirements for licensure. Requirements for placing siblings together whenever possible and adoption by relatives also are addressed. Summaries of laws for all 50 States are included.

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2018). *Placement of children with relatives*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/statutes/placement/>

Practice Points: Five Tips for Advocating for the “Most Connected Placement”: A Few Ways You Can Help Your Child Clients Stay in Contact with the People Who Love Them and Their Own Communities

How can lawyers advocate to ensure that their clients are being placed not just in the “least restrictive” setting but in families where children are the most connected to people who love them and to their own communities? Here are five tips to get you started.

American Bar Association

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/committees/childrens-rights/practice/2019/five-tips-for-advocating-for-the-most-connected-placement/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Promoting Placement Stability

This publication addresses this need by presenting a variety of research findings and perspectives looking at promoting placement stability for children and youth in out-of-home care. This publication provides an overview of placement stability issues, practice notes, evidence-based research and programs, and perspectives from various stakeholders.

Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (2010)

https://www.cascw.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/CW360_2010.pdf

Non-Family Placements: What We Know

The toolkit includes research on why kids do better in families; bench cards and checklists for judges, attorneys, and advocates; an interactive state-by-state map of data addressing children placed in non-family settings; training tools; and judicial strategies for reform. These resources aim to reduce reliance on non-family placements for children in foster care.

National Center for State Courts

<http://www.ncsc.org/Microsites/EveryKid/Home.aspx>

Reducing Reliance on Non-Family Placements: An Advocacy guide for Attorneys

This guide was created to support attorney’s advocacy efforts to keep children in families and family settings and provides a framework to identify issues for case investigation and legal arguments, as well as supporting resources for presenting these arguments in court. It is based on multi-disciplinary research, as well as other resources and guidelines, and draws on best practices for professionals within the child welfare field.

National Association of Counsel for Children, ABA Center on Children and the Law

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.naccchildlaw.org/resource/resmgr/advocacy_guide_for_attorneys.pdf

Requirements and Consideration When Increasing the Capacity of Children/Youth in a Foster Care Home

This operation memo is intended to provide information about a change in foster care certification rules that allows increased capacity in foster care homes from four (4) to six (6) children/youth, when criteria are met. Foster parents need to be able to meet the needs of all children/youth in the home. For example, factors include but are not limited to: parenting experience, supervision needs, ongoing assessment to identify support needs, sufficient supports from the certifying agency, space requirements, foster parents’ preferences, and training needs. Details are provided on pages 2-3.

Colorado Department of Human Services (December 2018)

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/cd781c9bc8f90270567729e9e/files/9d8b0dce-5ef9-423b-9c39-7005d5f5d7df/OM_CW_2018_0028.pdf

Treatment Foster Care

10/20/2020

Voluntary Implementation of Treatment Foster Care Programs for County Departments of Human/Social Services and Child Placement Agencies

This memorandum summarizes regulations that went into effect on February 1, 2018, regarding Treatment Foster Care Programs (TFC) pursuant to section 26-6-102(4). TFCs are alternatives to residential treatment facilities that combine the treatment typically associated with more restrictive settings with nurturing and individualized family environments.

Colorado Office of Children, Youth & Families

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/cd781c9bc8f90270567729e9e/files/e82131f3-35bc-41ee-b12f-06be2492c8a4/OM_CW_2018_0002.pdf