

Educational Stability

SSIS WORKER MENTOR MEETING

December 7, 2016

Presented by Deborah Beske Brown, Child Foster care. Child safety and Permanency

Educational stability

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 requires that child welfare agencies provide for the educational stability of foster care children.

Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011 further clarified educational stability requirements

The requirements are addressed in Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.212, subdivision 1(b)(8),(9)

Educational stability requirements

- 1) Assure that at initial placement in foster care and at each subsequent move, efforts and plans are made to ensure education stability, unless remaining in the school of origin is not in the child's best interest,
- 2) Assure that, if it is not in the child's best interest to remain in the school of origin, that the child is immediately enrolled in the new school, and;
- 3) Assuring that child's records are immediately transferred to the enrolling school.

Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015

Incorporated federal requirements into the State Department of Education and local education authorities to ensure educational stability for foster children

Establishes education and child welfare agencies collaboration to ensure school stability, prompt school enrollment and school success for children in foster care

SSIS Placement Screen amended

The “School Change Information” is part of the Placement screen, required to be completed when:

- The placement end date is entered, and
- The placement start date is on or after 10/01/2016

Information may be entered before the placement end date is entered, but can not save the placement with an end date if the required fields are not entered.

This is to be entered for a placement of any duration.

Placement / Location / Absence Information

Setting:	Foster family home - non-relative		
Reason:	Safety/stability		
Start Date:	10/10/2016	12:00 AM	Entry Date: 12/6/2016 08:36 AM
Classification:	Placement - Northstar	Effective date:	10/10/2016 12:00:00
Workgroup:	Brown Baby B A/G Assessment 07/19/2001		
Bus org / provider:	Lucky Foster Home, Lilly and Lyle		
Location description:			
End reason:			
End date:		End Entry Date:	
Disruption reason:			
Disruption detail:			
School district attending:	Farmington Public School District		
ICPC receiving state:		<input type="checkbox"/>	Check if no payment will be made to the provider
Does another agency or state have financial responsibility for this child -courtesy supervision by this agency?			<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No

School Change Information

Is child currently enrolled in school?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Did child change schools due to this placement?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Date child enrolled in new school:	10/10/2016
Reason for change:	Exiting Non Family Residential; school on site or affiliated
If unreasonable travel, reason for placement choice:	
Other:	
School exemption reason:	

School change screen

The new screen will record and collect the agency's effort to meet educational stability requirements, by addressing the following:

- 1) Is the child currently enrolled in school?
- 2) Did the child change schools as a result of the out-of-home placement? If so, indicate the specified or "other" reason
- 3) If the reason for school change was unreasonable travel, what is the reason for that placement choice – choose the specified reason or "other"
- 4) If the child is exempt from school attendance, choose the specified reason
- 5) Any occurrence where a placement change results in a school move.
- 6) When there is a school move resulting from a placement change, to include reason codes to identify why the child moved schools (best interest of the child, relative placement, transportation issues, etc.).

Policy questions about Educational Stability

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AFCARS

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AFCARS

Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System

AFCARS collects data on all children in out-of-home care for whom the state Title IV-B/IV-E agency has responsibility for placement, care and supervision.

This data is used for state, county and federal reporting.

AFCARS compliance requires that data must be entered into SSIS within 60 days of the removal or discharge from foster care

What is foster care?

Federal and state definition

“24 hour substitute care for all children **placed away from their parent** or guardians, and the **agency has placement and care responsibility**; regardless of whether the foster care facility is licensed and whether payments are made by the agency for the care of the child or whether there is federal matching of any payments.”

45 CFR 1350.20

MN Statutes, section 260C.007, subd. 18

AFCARS requirements for entry

Federal regulation 45 C.F.R. §1355.40(a) addresses the scope of the data collection system for foster care, including:

- All children in foster care for whom the state Title IV-B/IV-E agency has responsibility for placement, care, or supervision. [45 C.F.R. §1355.40(a)(2)]
- American Indian children are covered under section 422(b)(10) of the Act, on the same basis as any other child. [45 C.F.R. §1355.40(a)(2)]
- Children in out-of-state placements [45 C.F.R. §1355.40(a)(2)]

AFCARS requirements for entry , continued

Federal regulation 45 C.F.R. §1355.40(a) addresses the scope of the data collection system for foster care, including:

- All children in foster care at least 24 hours (Appendix A, section II)
- All children who are in the placement, care, or supervision responsibility of a Title IV-B/E agency who are on trial home visits [Child Welfare Policy Manual, Section 1.3, AFCARS Reporting Population]
- Youth over age 18, up to age 21, if a Title IV-E payment is being made on behalf of a child. [Child Welfare Policy Manual, Section 1, AFCARS]

Placement, Care and Supervision

Placement (legal) authority:

Court order is a state or tribal court that orders the child into the temporary or permanent custody of the agency.

Voluntary placement agreement – signed by the agency and child's parent before or on the day of placement. Two types:

- Child welfare – MN Stat. section 260C.227
- Access Treatment – MN Stat. Chapter 260D

AFCARS:

Placement, Locations and Absences

SSIS tracks placement, locations and absences for youth under age 21

Each entry is classified as a placement, location or absence based on the

- setting, or
- setting and reason combination

Placements must be within the date range of a Continuous Placement

Locations and absences may

- Occur within a Continuous placement, or
- Be entered for tracking purposes even when the agency does not have placement responsibility

Continuous placement

Begins when the agency has placement and care responsibilities and child is removed from the home

Defined as the entire time a child lives away from their parent(s) through legal authority

Ends when the child is living with their parent, legal custodian, finalized adoption or reaches the age of majority

Agency roles

Legally responsible agency:

- May be through a court order, voluntary agreement or voluntary relinquishment
- May be local county social service agency, American Indian Child welfare Initiative Tribe or Minnesota Tribe that assumes jurisdiction

Financially responsible agency

- The social service agency that pays for the placement.
- Usually a local county social service agency but may be an American Indian Child welfare Initiative Tribe

Entering a placement

Social service agency has placement and care responsibility of the child (court order or voluntary placement agreement) and financial responsibility for placement

- County or American Indian Child welfare Initiative Tribe enters the placement into SSIS

72 hour holds or emergency placements

- County Agency or American Indian Child Welfare Initiative Tribe, (if tribal code or practice includes emergency placements) with financial responsibility enters the placement

Tribal social Service agency has placement and care responsibilities of the child and county social service agency has financial responsibility for placement

- County Agency with financial responsibility enters the placement

Entering a placement

Correction placements

Corrections has placement and care responsibilities of the child and there is a Title IV-E Maintenance agreement between corrections and agency

- County Agency with financial responsibility enters the placement

Corrections has placement and care responsibilities of the child and the social service agency is under the same administrative structure (Umbrella agencies) as corrections

- County Agency (Dakota, Olmsted and Stearns) with financial responsibility enter the placement

Entering supervising agency

The supervising agency is recorded on the SSIS Continuous Placement Screen and indicates which agency that has placement and care responsibilities.

Can a legally responsible agency that is not financially responsible enter into SSIS information about where the child is placed?

Answer “yes” to the courtesy supervision. This will classify this entry as a location and not a placement

Placement settings

- **Family foster home** (relative and non-relative)
- **Foster home** – corporate/shift staff
- **Pre-adoptive home** (relative and non-relative), which means there is an Adoptive Placement Agreement signed by the prospective adoptive parent(s), the responsible social services agency, and the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services
- **Pre-kinship home (relative)**, which means there is a Kinship Placement Agreement signed by the responsible social service agency and the prospective relative custodian(s); this is new under Northstar Care for Children
- **Group homes** (a licensed home providing 24-hour care for children in a small group setting that generally has fewer than 13 children)

Placement settings, continued

- **Residential treatment**, including state-operated inpatient treatment centers, and residential chemical dependency treatment (not hospital-based) within a continuous placement
- **Intermediate care facilities/developmental disability (ICF-DD) facilities**
- **Hospitalizations lasting 16 days** or more within a continuous placement, this appears in SSIS as a location, but is reported for AFCARS as a separate placement
- **Juvenile correctional facility**— non-secure and locked, when placement is occurring within a continuous placement
- **Supervised independent living settings for youth ages 18, up to 21**

New placement settings

The following must be entered as new placement settings rather than discharges in SSIS:

- **Trial home visit** [Minnesota Statutes, sections 260C.201, subd. 1 (a)(3), 260D.12 and 45 C.F.R. §1356.21 (e)] is entered as a location and reported as a placement setting for AFCARS, even though child/youth is with the parent, since the agency retains responsibility for placement, care and supervision of the child
- **Run away** – is classified as an absence in SSIS, and reported to AFCARS as a placement setting

Settings considered temporary locations

The temporary location may occur within a continuous placement, or as an individual service.

The following settings are considered temporary locations for a child, and are **not** considered placements.

- **Non-custodial parent's home**
- **Hospitalization** – for less than 16 days
- **Camp**
- **Secure detention** when not occurring within a continuous placement

When a child is receiving respite during a continuous placement. This is considered a reason in SSIS under placements/locations/absences screen and will be considered a temporary location in SSIS for AFCARS reporting.

Entering supervising agency

The supervising agency is recorded on the SSIS Continuous Placement Screen and indicates which agency that has placement and care responsibilities.

The legally responsible agency can enter the placement as a location when that agency is not financially responsible by answering “yes” to the courtesy supervision. Examples:

- Another agency requested courtesy supervision
- ICPC placement in Minnesota
- Agency has legal responsibility of the placement and a different agency is financially responsible

AFCARS:

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Classification

Setting and reason combination

SSIS Tip sheet offers a detailed chart about how placement, location or absence type are combined with reason for AFCARS classification

Example 1: Setting Foster home – relative

Reasons that are classified placement: safety/stability, shelter, treatment, consequence for 30 days or more, corrections, education, employment, aftercare and medical

Reasons that are classified locations: respite, preplacement visits, and child with parent

Classification – more examples

Example 2: Setting Non-custodial parent

Reasons that are classified placement: none

Reasons that are classified locations: safety/stability, respite, shelter, education

Example 3: Setting Child's reunification home

Reasons that are classified placement: none

Reasons that are classified locations: trial home visit, (not discharged from county care or custody)

Trial home visit: court ordered and voluntary placement for treatment

Court ordered trial home visit for up to 6 months. Returns the child to the care of the parent and maintains the agency's placement care and supervision responsibility. The continuous placement remains open.

Voluntary foster care to access treatment trial home visit for up to 6 months. The parent and the responsible social services agency may agree that the child is returned to the care of the parent on a trial home visit. The purpose of the trial home visit is to provide sufficient planning for supports and services to the child and family to meet the child's needs following treatment so they can return to and remain in the parents' home.

AFCARS:

Accurate and timely entry

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AFCARS data entry in SSIS

Overall, county and tribal workers have consistently meet the data entry thresholds for most AFCARS data elements in SSIS.

This past year federal review found Minnesota failed to enter the date of discharge from foster care within 60 days of the actual discharge date.

Substantial noncompliance occurs when required date fields are missing, inconsistent or out of range by more than 10 % of the total number for any one data element.

AFCARS compliance

AFCARS compliance requires that data must be entered into SSIS within 60 days of the removal from the home or discharged from foster care

DHS recommends that data entry within 30 days of removal or discharge.

AFCARS data entry in SSIS

DHS bulletin 15-68-22 provides detail on the need to improve specific placement and adoption data reporting in SSIS.

Amending AFCARS regulations

Administration for Children and Families has propose amending AFCARS regulations

The proposed new regulations emphasize data quality, including:

- Accuracy
- Consistency and
- Timely entry

Timely and accurate entry will continue to be a federal focus and agency attention will reduce noncompliance issues

Policy questions about AFCARS

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