

Parent-Child-Caseworker Visitations

(FY 2018 Appropriation Act - Public Act 107 of 2017)

March 1, 2018

Sec. 564. (1) *The department shall develop a clear policy for parent-child visitations. The local county offices, caseworkers, and supervisors shall meet an 85% success rate, after accounting for factors outside of the caseworkers' control.*

(2) *Per the court-ordered number of required meetings between caseworkers and a parent, the caseworkers shall achieve a success rate of 85%, after accounting for factors outside of the caseworkers' control.*

(3) By March 1 of the current fiscal year, the department shall provide to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house fiscal agencies, the senate and house policy offices, and the state budget office a report on the following:

(a) The percentage of success rate for parent-child visitations and court-ordered required meetings between caseworkers referenced in subsections (1) and (2) for the previous year.

(b) The barriers to achieve the success rates in subsections (1) and (2) and how this information is tracked.



Michigan Department of
Health & Human Services

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The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) completed a quality assurance compliance review on a sample of fiscal year (FY) 2017 cases. Findings from the review revealed:

- Ninety-eight percent of children had visits of sufficient frequency with their parents to promote parent-child relationships.
- Ninety-three percent of caseworkers visited with parents at a frequency sufficient to address issues pertaining to the safety, permanency and well-being of the child and promote achievement of case goals.

Barriers to Compliance

- Time involved in transportation and supervision of visits is difficult for workers.
- Resources necessary to reimburse foster parents for transportation to visits.
- The number of available volunteers for visitation is a continued barrier.
- Standardized assessment tools for development of family-specific visitation plans.
- Continued education of community partners regarding the role and importance of parent-child visitation in child welfare cases.

Efforts to Mitigate Barriers

- Volunteer training has been developed to provide hands on knowledge for volunteers for transportation, supervision and mentoring of parent-child visits. Volunteer training is provided to all child welfare volunteers who currently assist with visitation.
- MDHHS is working with volunteer organizations to increase the number of volunteers in order to increase capacity for visitation. Development and promotion of training for volunteers will provide guidance for transportation, supervision and mentoring.
- Family Team Meeting (FTM) facilitator training was implemented to teach worker specific skills related to developing, implementing and revising parent-child contacts in order to develop and work with a comprehensive family team. Further enhancements to this training include:

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- Forming and maintaining a family team for purposes of parent child visitation.
 - Utilizing natural and system supports in meeting the needs of visitation.
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- Opportunities are provided to educate relative caregivers about the importance of parent-child-visits and the relative caregivers' role in visitation.
 - Continued efforts to identify and implement a parenting time specific assessment tool that assists the case manager in making informed decisions when formulating a review of parenting time compliance and how to ensure parenting time is planned, purposeful, and progressive.
 - The Foster Care Supportive Visitation contract program provides intensive and individualized parent-child visit services to families whose children are in foster care and where reunification is the case goal. General activities include providing in-home parenting education, observing parent-child interactions, and giving helpful feedback to the parent before and after each session.
 - Development of contracts for the delivery of evidenced-based/best practice services to address needs related to parenting skills.
 - The Enhanced MiTEAM Practice Model includes guidance on development of parenting time plans and assessment aspects of the case service plan.
 - Statewide training was provided to first line supervisors to ensure a clear understanding of visitation policy, proper documentation of visitation in MiSACWIS, and the use of data in identification of trends and gaps locally and statewide.

Tracking

MDHHS developed standard reports, a book of business, and performs quality assurance compliance reviews to track compliance with caseworker-parent visits, parent-child visits and to monitor compliance with policy.