



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Charlie Crist
Governor

Robert A. Butterworth
Secretary

DATE: July 6, 2007

TO: Regional Directors, Circuit Administrators, Community-Based Care CEOs, Sheriff's Offices

THROUGH: George Sheldon, Assistant Secretary for Operations
David Fairbanks, Assistant Secretary for Programs *Robert Anderson for*

FROM: *Patricia Badland*
Patricia Badland, Director of Office of Family Safety

SUBJECT: 2007 Legislation Impacting Child Welfare Services

Purpose: The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information about the 2007 Legislation impacting child welfare services as well as information about training and technical assistance opportunities.

Action Required: Please provide this memorandum to all staff supervising, managing or training child welfare services including adoption, out-of-home care or independent living services. This memorandum contains information about upcoming conference calls, a powerpoint presentation, and related documents. Please feel free to modify the powerpoint presentation in your local training efforts.

Training/Technical Assistance: A conference call will be held on **Friday, July 13, 10:00 AM**, to provide an overview of this year's legislation and related training/technical assistance materials developed by our office. The participants on the conference call should include a representative from your agency able to share information with staff providing adoption, out-of-home care and independent living services as well as representatives from child welfare legal services. The audience will not be limited to a specific number of participants so please feel free to designate more than one staff member as needed.

A second call will be held for certified trainers on **Friday, July 20, 10:00 AM**, to provide an overview of this year's legislation and discuss preservice curriculum changes.

The number and code for both calls is: **888-808-6959, code 9213005.**

In addition to the calls above, similar information will be presented on the independent living coordinator call on Wednesday, July 11, 10:00 AM and on the in-home/out-of-home care specialist call on Thursday, July 12 also at 10:00 AM. For information about the independent living coordinator call, please contact Joel Atkinson, Joel_Atkinson@dcf.state.fl.us, 850-921-4118. For information about the in-home/out-of-home care call, please contact Linda Johns, [Linda D Johns@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:Linda_D_Johns@dcf.state.fl.us), 850-414-9982.

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Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

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2007 Legislation by Service Area: All legislation below is available on the Florida Senate web site. Go to: www.myflorida.com, select Government, select Legislative Branch, select Florida Senate and enter the bill numbers as below.

The attached powerpoint contains a summary of each of the bills below and the major requirements. The powerpoint is divided in three sections: Independent Living, Supervised Visitation, and Adoption. Rule revisions are required as a result of these legislative changes and are expected to commence during the summer. The rules revisions process will include the opportunity for review and comment.

Adoption: Laws of Florida, 2007-124 (formerly known as House Bill 1309) and Laws of Florida, 2007-119 (formerly known as House Bill 803)

In addition to the powerpoint presentation, two forms (FS-FSP-5146, Adoption Subsidy, Title IV-E Eligibility/Screening Worksheet and CF-FSP 5079, Adoption Assistance Agreement) have been revised. These forms can be located on the Department intranet web site, E-forms. A separate memo containing maintenance adoption subsidy funding information is expected to be sent shortly. The contents of the memo are repeated in the attached powerpoint presentation.

Adoption Services Contact: Kathy Waters, Kathleen_Waters@dcf.state.fl.us, 850-922-5055.

Supervised Visitation: Laws of Florida, 2007-109 (formerly known as House Bill 77)

Please note that the powerpoint contains two separate sections regarding visitation. The first section is designed for caseworkers and the second section is designed for managers.

The Florida Supreme Court document, "Minimum Standards for Supervised Visitation Program Agreements" may be viewed in its entirety at: http://familyvio.csw.fsu.edu/IJ/judges-manual/appendic/app_a.pdf

Supervised Visitation Contact: Arlene Carey, Arlene_Carey@dcf.state.fl.us, 850-921-1928

Independent Living: Laws of Florida 2007-147 (formerly known as Senate Bill 2114)

In addition to the powerpoint, guidelines for implementation are attached as well as revised forms/applications have been posted on the Center for Advancement of Child Welfare Practice web site. Go to: <http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/>

Independent Living Contact: Joel Atkinson, Joel_Atkinson@dcf.state.fl.us, 850-921-4118

Thank you for your attention to these important legislative changes. If you are interested in convening additional conference calls or have other training/technical assistance requests, please contact Gay Frizzell, Gay_Frizzell@dcf.state.fl.us, 850-921-3005 or any of the staff listed above.

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cc: Peggy Sanford, Deputy General Counsel
John Pritchard, Chief of Appeal Hearings
Dawn Marie Farmer, Guardian Ad Litem Trainer
Laurie Cunningham, University of South Florida Training Academy
Debra Danker-Sandler, Florida International University Curriculum Developer
Don Policella, Center for the Advancement of Child Welfare Practice

Attachments

- 2007 Legislative Changes Powerpoint
- Guidelines for Implementation of SB 2114

Location of Other Documents Cited Above

DCF E-Forms web site - <http://scfdz002.dcf.state.fl.us/pdf/dcfdoc.nsf>

- CF-FSP-5146, Adoption Subsidy, Title IV-E Eligibility/Screening Worksheet
- CF-FSP 5079, Adoption Assistance Agreement
- CF-FSP 5295, Initial Road to Independence Program Application
- CF- FSP 5297, Road to Independence Program Reinstatement Application
- CF-FSP 5296, Road to Independence Program Funds Renewal Checklist

FSU Clearinghouse - http://familyvio.csw.fsu.edu/IJ/judges-manual/appendic/app_a.pdf

- Minimum Standards for Supervised Visitation Program Agreements