





Child Welfare (CW) Cases:


- Child is **SAFE**, but the parent/guardian is unable or needs assistance to care for or provide necessary treatment or services

Child Protective Services (CPS) Cases:

- Child is **UNSAFE** and services are required to control impending dangers

Out of Home Care (OHC) Cases:



- Children are removed from their parent or guardian when impending dangers can not be controlled in the home and the child is not safe.
- CW and CPS cases can both be OHC cases

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Types of Out of Home Care

- Relatives/Kinship
- Foster Homes
- Group Homes
- Residential Care Centers
- Institutions/Hospitals

As of September 30, 2012 there were 6185 children in OHC, which is a decrease of approximately 300 children from a year ago.






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Requirements for Placing a Child in Out of Home Care:

Choosing a Placement for a Child:



- Placement proximity to the child's parents within 60 miles
- Placement with siblings
- Placement with a fit and willing relative
- Placement that allows the child to remain in the school they currently attend
- Placement with a provider that meets or exceeds the child's assessed needs, unless the agency can provide additional supports and services to the out of home care provider

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Educational Considerations:

- The school the child was attending prior to being placed in OHC. Agencies may also consider early education settings and preschools when trying to create educational stability.
- Consideration of a placement that does not require the child's school to change, if it is safe and appropriate to do so.
- If the new placement of the child would require the child to attend a different school, efforts should be made, when reasonable and appropriate for the child to attend the School of Origin or to promptly enroll in the new school.

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Educational Considerations:

Additional information related to education for children in OHC can be found in the joint DCF and DPI publication :
"Education Services for Children Placed in Foster Care"

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/pdf/sswedfostercare.pdf>



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Suggested Practices to Improve Educational Outcomes of Children Living in Foster

Partner with the child welfare agency, the parent(s), and foster parent(s) to develop an education stability plan. If possible, allow the child to stay in her/his school of origin. The school of origin is defined as the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of foster care placement.

Within each school, designate either:

- a. One staff person to be responsible for all foster care issues, or
- b. Choose individual staff members to monitor the academic progress of individual students (e.g., school counselor, homeless liaison, school social worker, teacher).

Notify the county caseworker of the contact information for the district staff member responsible for any students in foster care.

Send the caseworker the school schedule of district activities, including parent-teacher conferences.

Send the parent, foster parent, and caseworker copies of the school calendar, student handbook, and any other school materials furnished to parents of students enrolled in the school.



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Goal of Children in Out of Home Care is to find a Safe Permanent Home

- REUNIFICATION**
- ADOPTION**
- GUARDIANSHIP**
- PERMANENT PLACEMENT WITH A RELATIVE**



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REUNIFICATION

Reunification is defined as a child returning to the child's parents or the home from which he or she was removed.

- Child safety can be controlled through an In-Home Safety Plan
- Parent/caregiver protective capacities are sufficiently enhanced to manage threats to the child's safety and
- It is in the child's best interest to reunify.



ADOPTION

Adoption is intended to provide the legal guarantee of permanence for a child. Any decision to pursue an adoption should minimally include the following:

- The proposed adoptive resource demonstrates protective capacities, stability, nurturing care, and the ability to provide a lifelong commitment and relationship with the child.
- The biological parent is not capable of safely caring for their child and a court has terminated the parental rights.



GUARDIANSHIP

When reunification is not possible an individual will assume the legal and financial responsibilities associated with guardianship.

- The proposed guardian demonstrates protective capacities, stability, nurturing care, and the ability to provide a lifelong commitment and relationship with the child
- The proposed guardian demonstrates the capacity to manage the relationship with the child's birth parents including any contact with child after the permanence has been achieved



PERMANENT PLACEMENT WITH A RELATIVE

- The relative demonstrates to the agency the capacity and ability to cooperate with the birth parents to manage conflict and obtain the necessary signature from the birth parent to maintain the child's health and well-being needs
- The relative must also demonstrate the ability, capacity, and commitment to provide long-term for the child's safety, permanence, and well-being needs



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Transitioning to Permanence

A child's readiness to proceed with permanence is aided by conscientious preparation by caseworkers before, during and after transitions to:

- Prepare the child and family
- Assess any current or ongoing needs, and
- Develop a process for the transition that is in the best behavioral, and psychological needs



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Case Closure

Case closure is appropriate when permanence and goals for the child and family have been achieved and child welfare services are no longer needed

The determination is based on the following:

- Family and child has made sufficient progress in addressing permanency and case goals or conditions; and
- Formal or informal supports are available and accessible to the family, as needed, after the case is closed with the Agency



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Safety at Case Closure

The CPS responsibilities in making a determination that a safe home exists include:

- a formal safety assessment confirms the absence of impending danger threats and
- parent/caregiver protective capacities are sufficient



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