



NH Department of Health & Human Services
Division for Children, Youth & Families

DCYF Standard Operating Procedure

1625.3 SIBLING CONSIDERATIONS

Policy Directive: **20-36**

Effective Date: **September 2020**

Implements Policy: **1625**

Approved:

Joseph E. Ribsam, Jr., DCYF Director

This SOP defines appropriate permanency goals for siblings in placement.

Procedure

The following information is to support the implementation of the above referenced policy. This document shall not preclude staff from using their professional judgement based on individual circumstances, consistent with the requirements of the policy.

- I. When one or more siblings are in placement, permanency planning will take into consideration the sibling connection, but will be based on the individual needs of each child.
- II. Circumstances which may warrant different permanency goals for siblings may include, but are not limited to:
 - A. Safety needs of one or more siblings (one engages in unsafe behavior that would jeopardize the safety of the other sibling);
 - B. Long-term behavioral/treatment needs of one or more of the siblings;
 - C. A parent is available for reunification for one child, but not the other; or
 - D. An older child wishes to have a different goal from their younger sibling(s).
- III. Any permanency goal that includes adoption of one sibling and not the other(s), or which includes siblings being adopted separately, must be approved by the Permanency Planning Team (PPT) and by a Field Administrator.
- IV. When it is determined that it is in the best interest of one or more siblings to have a permanency goal that is either different from their sibling's goal or does not include the sibling, there must be continued exploration as to the appropriateness of the plan until permanency has been achieved.
- V. When siblings have different permanency goals, or otherwise do not achieve permanency together, the CPSW/JPPPO will stress the importance of the siblings maintaining contact post DCYF involvement should the siblings wish. This may include:
 - A. Ensuring siblings remain in the same community; and

- B. Setting the expectation for ongoing contact with the sibling's caregivers.
- VI. Consideration of siblings in making permanency decisions will be documented in the case record via the DCYF electronic information system, Permanency Planning Team (PPT) notes (when applicable), and court reports.

Glossary and Document Specific Definitions

A - B C - D E - F G - I J - L M - N O - Q R - S T - V W - Z

Document Change Log

PD	Modification Made	Approved	Date