



## New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families Policy Manual

### 1565 REUNIFICATION

Chapter: Case Management Standards for CP and JJ Field Services

Section: Case Management

Approved:

Joseph E. Ribsam, Jr., DCYF Director

Policy Directive: **21-20**

Effective Date: **August 2021**

#### References Of Note

Federal Authority: [42 USC 675 \(5\)](#) and [45 CFR 1356.21](#)

Statutes: [RSA 169-B](#), [RSA 169-C](#), [RSA 169-D](#), and [RSA 170-G](#)

Administrative Rules:

Case Law:

This policy describes the Division's practices around reunification.

#### **Required Practices**

*Any deviations to the following information must be documented with Supervisory Approval.*

- I. When the Division determines that reunification (see policy 1625 Permanency Planning) is in the best interest of a child, there must be consideration of how to manage risk and support the family through the reunification process.
- II. Recommendations for reunification will be made through a court report/legal pleading and the proposed court orders and will indicate that custody shall return to the parent(s)/guardian(s), with the Division retaining legal supervision.
- III. Upon receiving an order from the Court that reunification is to occur, the CPSW/JPPO will:
  - A. Notify the Fiscal Specialist Unit (FSU) of the Court's decision that day and provide a copy of the court order as soon as possible;
  - B. Notify the school district(s) to develop a School Transition Plan; and
  - C. Document the reunification in the DCYF electronic information system.
- IV. The FSU will ensure all appropriate fiscal information is entered into the DCYF electronic information system and seek additional information from the CPSW/JPPO as necessary.
- V. The family must be provided post-reunification services as appropriate to support reunification and address all risk factors for the child and family.
- VI. Any change in custody post-reunification must be:
  - A. Made through the court or parole board;
  - B. Promptly reported to the FSU;

- C. Reported to the appropriate school district(s) for the purpose of educational planning in accordance with policy 1666 Educational Planning for Children/Youth in Placement; and
- D. Documented in the DCYF electronic information system.

VII. A return to care shall be considered a re-entry.

VIII. DCYF will not immediately close a case upon reunification unless the Court order or statutory regulation dictates.

<b>Standard Operating Procedures</b>		
<b>SOP</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Applicable</b>
1565.1	Reunification-CPS	CPS
1565.2	Reunification-JJS	JJS
1565.5	Fiscal Procedures	Fiscal Specialists

<b>Glossary and Document Specific Definitions</b>
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A - B    C - D    E - F    G - I    J - L    M - N    O - Q    R - S    T - V    W - Z

<b>Document Change Log</b>			
<b>PD</b>	<b>Modification Made</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Date</b>