1650 DIARY REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

Chapter: Out-of-Home Placements
Section: Well-Being

New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families Policy Manual
Policy Directive: 12-07
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Approved: Maggie Bishop, DCYF Director
Scheduled Review Date:

Related Statute(s): RSA 169-B, RSA 169-C, and RSA 169-D,
Related Admin Rule(s):
Related Federal Regulation(s):
Related Form(s): 2293 and 2278
Bridges' Screen(s) and Attachment(s):

Purpose/Philosophy

DCYF believes that all children/youth who are in out-of-home care need to maintain connectedness with their families. Documenting daily routines, celebrations, events, medical histories, and visits with other family members provides the continuity so necessary to this time.

Policy

I. Each child/youth in foster care must have a diary, which contains important factual information and personal experiences.

II. The purposes for the diary are:

A. To ensure that the current and subsequent caregiver(s) have access to information which is necessary for the proper care of the child(ren)/youth in foster care;

B. To provide children/youth in foster care and their families with a record of events in their life while in care;

C. To help children/youth in foster care understand who they are, where they have been, and with whom they have been; and

D. To help connect the child(ren)/youth's past and present life to create a stronger, more positive sense of self.

III. The diary must be maintained by the child/youth's caregiver(s). Input may be obtained from the birth parents, CPSW/J PPO, the child/youth in foster care, and other individuals.

IV. When the child/youth returns home or moves to another placement, the diary must accompany the child/youth.

V. Caregivers of children/youth over age 16 who are enrolled in the Teen Independent Living Program must complete the "Life Book Information" (Form 2293) in lieu of the "Foster Child's Diary" (Form 2278).

Procedures

I. The CPSW or J PPO who places the child(ren)/youth must
A. Provide the foster parent(s) or caregiver(s) with the "Foster Child's Diary" (Form 2278), and

B. Discuss the importance of record keeping for the child(ren)/youth and the purposes of the diary.

II. The Resource Worker who licenses the foster home must review the foster parent(s)' record keeping progress and requirements for re-licensure.