

SUBJECT: PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN (PTP)

Revised: 10/04/18

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PLACEMENT TRANSITION PLAN (PTP)	
County Policy <u>01/18/11</u> Date <u>Signature on file</u> Tracy Buckingham, Assistant Director	<p>The San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services values foster youth, foster parents and birth parents as collaborative partners in Child Welfare Services. Prior to moving children to a new placement, staff will collaborate with youth, foster parents and birth parents to plan for a positive transition for foster children. To support the transition, the SW will coordinate with the youth; foster parents and parents affected by the change and create a Placement Transition Plan (PTP) that utilizes the About Your Child (AYC)/All About Me (AAM) and Team Decision Making (TDM) processes.</p>
Background	<p>Members of the Quality Parent Project (a team of foster parents, social workers, birth parents and CWS staff) identified the need to plan transitions for children between placements. The PTP is designed to create more positive transitions for children/youth in care and to help ensure the success of the subsequent placement, or the successful reunion with the child's family of origin.</p>
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a collaborative team among the adults and youth involved. • Create the opportunity for the child's needs to be heard. • Provide information and educate the new home regarding any of the child's needs: medical, emotional and/or developmental. • Reduce trauma, minimize the loss/grief issues for the youth and families.
Function	<p>The function of the PTP is to identify steps, timelines and responsibilities in the move including but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The timeline of the transition including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The needs of the child/ren ○ Educational, medical, mental health, religious/faith-based, cultural, dietary, extracurricular/social and circumstantial considerations. ○ Consideration of the Foster Care Payment • Other considerations as identified at the meeting. • Identify any additional steps that may be needed.
Development of the Placement Transition Plan (PTP)	<p>A PTP will be completed whenever a child is moved or goes home on an extended visit.</p> <p>The PTP event details will be included in all court reports when the recommendation is to return children home or to place them home on an extended visit, prior to the TDM.</p> <p>Depending on the circumstances, the PTP will also be developed at the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imminent Risk TDM • Emergency Placement TDM (assigned SW will be identified by TDM facilitator.) • Placement Move • Exit from Placement

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	<p>The Foster Parents, Birth Parents, and other adults should be included in the development of the PTP. However, the best interest of the children should be the main the focus and should be the foremost consideration in the development of the plan.</p> <p>The Social Worker can use the DSS CWS 163 Placement Transition Plan as a guide on how to create a PTP.</p> <p>The Social Worker can give the caregiver the DSS CWS 891-B About Your Child Questionnaire to complete with information about the youth to be incorporated in the Placement Transition Plan.</p>
Exceptions	Some situations may not require a PTP. Decisions will be made on a case by case basis. Exceptions will be staffed with a supervisor.
Court Report	See CMS Court Reports- LP Policy and Procedure for detailed instructions on how to include the PTP in Court Reports.
Working Collaboratively to Write the PTP	<p>The assigned SW coordinates the meeting with the foster youth and caregivers. At the meeting, they will collaboratively create a PTP using the AYC process and forms. The birth parent/current foster parent will supply the "About Your Child" information and the foster youth will provide the "All About Me" information. In writing the plan, the collaborative team will need to know and understand the purpose of the plan.</p> <p>The SW ensures that everyone is heard and comes to consensus about the plan.</p>
Resources	<p>All About Your Child Letter to Caregivers DSS CWS 891-A</p> <p>All About Your Child Questionnaire DSS CWS 891-B</p> <p>All About Me Survey DSS CWS 891-C</p> <p>Placement Transition Plan DSS CWS 163</p> <p>Creating Continuity: Helping Infants & Toddlers Through Transitions in Foster Care UC Berkeley Study</p>
Transition Tips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If transitioning an infant or young child, find out what kind of laundry soap and fabric softener the new family uses and ask the current family to begin using it so that the smell of the child's blankets and clothing will be familiar • Have the children's belongings packed into suitcases or canvas totes. Try to avoid using trash bags to transport belongings • Ask the new foster family to provide a picture of themselves and a welcome letter to the new child that introduces some basic information about the family • Ask the current foster family help the child create a small memory book with pictures and information about milestones and achievements the child experienced while in their care to take with them to the next home • Talk with the child ahead of time and involve them in planning the transition as much as possible