

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Division of Children and Family Services</b>        |   |
| <b>Protection and Safety Procedure Update # 4-2013</b> |   |
| <b>Regarding:</b>                                      | <b>OJS Siblings and Sibling Contact</b>   |
| <b>Date Effective:</b>                                 | January 7, 2013   |
| <b>Contact:</b>  | Peg Barner at 402-471-8402 or <a href="mailto:peg.barner@nebraska.gov">peg.barner@nebraska.gov</a> or<br>Mike Reddish at 402-471-9700 or <a href="mailto:mike.reddish@nebraska.gov">mike.reddish@nebraska.gov</a> |
| <b>Issued by:</b>                                      | Thomas D. Pristow   |

**Philosophy:**

Working with families involved with the Office of Juvenile Services must include siblings of the youth that have been adjudicated as a delinquent. Including all family members in the plans for safety and permanency is a best practice and will result in long term positive outcomes for families.

**Procedure:**

The CFS Specialist will ensure that the adjudicated delinquent (OJS Ward) and all siblings are assessed using the Family Strengths and Needs Assessment and have monthly contact with the CFS Specialist to assess safety and risk.

**Monthly Visits**

The CFS Specialist will have a minimum of monthly private contact with the OJS Ward in the residence of the youth.

The CFS Specialist will also have a minimum of monthly contact with the siblings of the OJS Ward. The CFS Specialist will ask the parent for permission to speak to each of the siblings privately. If the parent does not give permission, the worker will seek permission to speak with the siblings along with the parent. The worker will utilize family centered practice philosophy and skills to gain the parents trust and approval to visit with the siblings. If permission to visit with the siblings is not approved, the CFS Specialist will document all efforts made to obtain permission.

**Documentation of Visits:** Documentation of all monthly contacts (and information about contacts that were attempted and not successful) with OJS youth must be documented in the Contact Narrative within 3 business days of the contact.

Documentation of monthly contacts (and information about contacts that were attempted and not successful) with siblings must be documented in the Contact Narrative within 3 business days of the contact within the narrative section for the OJS Ward.

**Assessment of OJS Siblings**

The CFS Specialist will assure that all siblings of OJS Wards are assessed using the Family Strengths and Needs Assessment (FSNA). The CFS Specialist will assess each sibling of an OJS ward using the Child Strengths and Needs section of the FSNA. The case plan will address the needs of all children as determined in the FSNA and all applicable children must be engaged in the case planning process.

The CFS Specialist will informally assess child risk and safety during regular home visits and other times of contact with the child and family. This can be done by asking questions about the child's feelings and sense of safety in the home. A brief description of the CFS Specialists assessment of safety and risk will need to be documented when completing the FSNA in the Child Functioning narrative.

Completion of the FSNA will be documented in N-FOCUS within 60 days of case assignment or removal of the child from the home, whichever is sooner. The FSNA will be updated every 90 days based on the implementation date of the case plan.

**References:**

None