

DCFS SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR AUGUST 2011 PROMULGATION

SUMMARY OF DCFS REGULAR PROMULGATION

The purpose of this regular promulgation is to introduce a new policy regarding the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) as authorized by A.C.A. § 9-8-201 et seq. This program provides a subsidy to appropriate relatives who are willing to become guardians of children in foster care as outlined in the Arkansas Subsidized Guardianship Act. Due to this new program, policy regarding case reviews has also been updated to include information related to GAP. This promulgation also includes policy regarding mental health services provided to children in foster care that better aligns with best child welfare practice and includes more information on specific types of treatment. Finally, this promulgation includes updated forms to comply with acts passed during the 88th General Assembly, Regular Session 2011.

REVISION OF RULE

- POLICY VI-F: CASE REVIEW JUDICIAL HEARINGS FOR CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT
 - Included references to legal guardianships supported by Subsidized Guardianship Program as a possible permanency goal.
- CFS-323-A: NOTICE TO ADULT RELATIVES BY BLOOD, ADOPTION, OR MARRIAGE THAT A CHILD HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO DCFS CUSTODY
 - Added adult relatives by marriage to the same category as adult relatives by blood and adoption per Act 591.
- CFS-323-B: NOTICE TO FICTIVE KIN THAT A CHILD HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO DCFS CUSTODY
 - Removed references to adult relatives by marriage as this relationship is now included with other adult relatives per Act 591.

NEW RULE

- POLICY VI-L: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE
 - New policy regarding mental health services to children in foster care that better aligns policy with best practice and includes more information on specific types of treatment.
- POLICY VIII-L: SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP
 - New policy outlining the Subsidized Guardianship Program.
- The following forms were developed to match the requirements of the new Subsidized Guardianship Program:
 - CFS- 435-A: SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION AND CHECKLIST
 - CFS -435-B: NOTIFICATION OF SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM DENIAL
 - CFS-435-C: SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM SPECIAL SUBSIDY REQUEST
 - CFS-435-F: SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP AGREEMENT
 - CFS-435-G: ANNUAL SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP AGREEMENT REVIEW
 - CFS-435-H: SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP AGREEMENT TERMINATIONS

RESCINDMENT OF RULE

- POLICY VI-L: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE
 - No longer needed as it was rewritten to align policy with best practice and include more information on specific types of treatment.