

5101:2-42-05

**Selection of a placement setting.**

- (A) When a child cannot remain in his own home, the public children services agency (PCSA) or private child placing agency (PCPA) shall explore both maternal and paternal relatives regarding their willingness and ability to assume temporary custody or guardianship of the child. Unless it is not in the child's best interest, the PCSA or PCPA shall explore placement with a non-custodial parent before considering other relatives.
- (B) If a suitable relative is not available to assume temporary custody or guardianship, the PCSA or PCPA shall explore placement with a suitable nonrelative who has a relationship with the child and/or family.
- (C) The PCSA or PCPA shall only place children in substitute care settings that are licensed, certified or approved by the agency of the state having responsibility for licensing, certifying or approving facilities of the type in which the child is placed or in homes of relatives or nonrelatives approved by the PCSA or PCPA in accordance with rule 5101:2-42-18 of the Administrative Code.
- (D) The PCSA or PCPA shall attempt to place siblings in the same home unless it is not in the child's or his siblings' best interest.
- (E) When the PCSA or PCPA has assumed temporary custody of a child, it shall select a substitute care setting that is consistent with the best interest and special needs of the child and which meets the following criteria:
- (1) Is considered the least restrictive, most family-like setting available to meet the child's emotional and physical needs;
  - (2) Is in close proximity to the home from which the child was removed or the home in which the child will be permanently placed;
  - (3) Is in close proximity to the school in which the child was enrolled prior to placement;
  - (4) Is designed to enhance the likelihood of achieving permanency plan goals; and
  - (5) Is able to provide a safe environment for the child.
- (F) The following allowable settings are listed in order from least restrictive to most restrictive:
- (1) The home of a suitable relative as defined in rule 5101:2-1-01 of the Administrative Code;
  - (2) The home of a suitable nonrelative as defined in rule 5101:2-1-01 of the Administrative Code;

- (3) A foster home;
  - (4) An independent living arrangement, as appropriate for the child;
  - (5) A group home;
  - (6) A maternity home;
  - (7) An emergency shelter care facility;
  - (8) A children's residential center;
  - (9) Any medical or educational facility.
- (G) For a child in the permanent custody of a PCSA or PCPA, an adoptive placement shall be considered the least restrictive setting. When selecting an adoptive placement the agency shall follow rule 5101:2-48-16 of the Administrative Code.
- (H) Only when a PCSA or PCPA determines that a child's mental, physical or emotional needs indicate that a less-restrictive setting cannot address his or her needs, may the PCSA or PCPA place the child in a more restrictive setting.
- (I) Nothing in this rule shall contravene the placement of a child in a secure facility or other specified setting by law enforcement or any court of jurisdiction.
- (J) The PCSA or PCPA shall document the following in the child's case plan:
- (1) Educational, medical, psychological, and social information used by the agency to select a placement setting which meets the identified educational, emotional, and physical needs of the child,
  - (2) How the setting constitutes a safe and appropriate placement; and
  - (3) Why less-restrictive placements, if applicable, were not utilized.
- (K) The above provisions of this rule do not apply to a permanent surrender agreement executed in the child's best interest by a PCPA in accordance with division (B)(2) of section 5103.15 of the Revised Code for a child less than six months of age for the purpose of adoption on the date of the execution of the agreement.
- (L) All placement activities shall be in compliance with rules 5101:2-42-18.1 and 5101:2-48-13 of the Administrative Code and 42 U.S.C. sections 622(b)(9), 671(a)(18), 674(d) and 1996b (collectively, the Multiethnic Placement Act or MEPA as in effect January 1, 1997).

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Certification

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Date

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