

MANUAL TRANSMITTAL

Arkansas Department of Human Services
Division of Children and Family Services

Policy Form Policy Directive
Service Programs Policy Manual

Issuance Number FSPP 2002-03
Issuance Date: August 14, 2002

From: Roy Kindle, DCFS Director

**Expiration Date - Until
Superseded**

Subj.: Policy (VII-C): Supervision Of Children in Out-Of-Home Placement

It has come to my attention that some Areas have developed internal policies that are different from the Division's approved Family Services Policy and Procedures Manual (FSPP) pertaining to removing foster children if an allegation of child maltreatment is made in an out-of-home placement case. Starting with the date of this Directive each Area will comply with Policy (VII-C): Supervision Of Children In Out-Of-Home Placement.

The policy states:

The Division shall notify the child's family, the OCC Attorney, Child Abuse Hotline and the Attorney ad litem if the child is the subject of an allegation of child maltreatment. If the alleged child maltreatment occurred in the out-of-home placement, the Attorneys ad litem for all other children placed in the home shall be notified. The information obtained during the investigation/interview will determine whether the involved children or other children in the out-of-home placement will be removed pending a final outcome of the investigation. If the alleged child maltreatment occurred and the foster family can correct the problem which resulted in the child maltreatment, a corrective action plan may be established with the foster family. However, the safety of the children will be the first consideration and the Division may close a foster home with a true determination of child maltreatment without a corrective action plan.

The decision to remove a foster child from a foster home or a facility should be made only if the information obtained during the investigation/interview determines that the involved children or other children in the out-of-home placement need to be removed pending a final outcome of the investigation. The Division has the responsibility of making the child's health and safety the paramount concern in determining whether or not to remove a child, which includes not causing the additional trauma of a move if it is not warranted. All allegations must be investigated and children seen and interviewed before a decision to remove a child is made especially in cases where we have approved homes and facilities which we should be monitoring on an ongoing basis.

