

Date – April, 2024

Manual - Child and Family Services Manual, Chapter E, Foster Care

Transmittal # 311

The purpose of this transmittal is to provide new, revised, and clarified guidance for *Chapter E: Foster Care* of the Child and Family Services Manual. Unless otherwise stated, the provisions included in this transmittal are effective upon release.

Changes to the manual incorporate new federal laws as well as clarify and enhance existing guidance on meeting the safety, permanency, and well-being needs of children in foster care.

This transmittal and manual are available on FUSION at:

<https://fusion.dss.virginia.gov/dfs/DFS-Home/Foster-Care/Foster-Care-Guidance>

The entire Foster Care Manual can be found on the DSS public website at:

<https://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/fc/index.cgi>.

The significant changes are as follows:

Section(s) Changed	Significant Changes	Reason for Change
Section 17.13 Missing children or youth from foster care, p. 23	<p>This section was revised to provide information and resources available to the local departments of social services (LDSS) that can assist in developing a plan to ensure that necessary action is taken when a child or youth initially goes missing from foster care.</p> <p>This subsection was also revised to include information about the higher risk trafficking for missing children and youth from foster care and connect this section to section 12.5.1.1.</p>	<p>This subsection was revised to clarify and strengthen existing requirements and was prompted by reviews of cases of missing children conducted in response to the Office of the Inspector General’s request.</p>
Section 17.13.1 Notification to Law Enforcement and The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, p.23	<p>This subsection was revised to expand the population of youth that the LDSS will need to report when missing to include Fostering Futures youth and Chafee eligible youth who are no longer in foster care.</p>	<p>These changes were made to comply with 71(a)(35)(B) of P.L. 117-348 (Federal Law).</p> <p>This subsection was also changed to clarify that NCMEC can assist with cases of missing</p>

	<p>This subsection was also revised to enhance the information that the LDSS should provide to law enforcement and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) when reporting a youth in foster care missing.</p> <p>This subsection was also revised to include that the LDSS should maintain regular communication with law enforcement and NCMEC during the period that the child or youth is missing from care.</p>	<p>young adults that are ages 18-20 years old.</p>
<p>Section 17.13.3 Continued efforts to locate, p. 25</p>	<p>This subsection was revised to include resources available through NCMEC to assist the LDSS in the requirement to make continued efforts to locate missing children and youth in foster care.</p>	<p>This change was made to enhance local practice related to the ongoing requirement to continue to locate children and youth who are missing from care.</p>

Questions about this transmittal should be directed to the Regional Permanency Practice Consultants:

Central: Alisha Hunt, 804-912-4104, a.hunt@dss.virginia.gov
 Lisa Tully, 804-840-4099, lisa.tully@dss.virginia.gov
 Sarah McDonald, 804-310-1741, s.mcdonald@dss.virginia.gov

Eastern: Emily Lowe, 757-636-0052, e.lowe@dss.virginia.gov
 Megan Johnson, 757-618-2339, Megan.johnson@dss.virginia.gov
 Khadija Wilson, 757-799-8001, khadija.wilson1@dss.virginia.gov

Northern: Jessica Cortes, 540-680-9108, j.cortes@dss.virginia.gov
 Sarah Gilbert, 540-454-7786, s.gilbert@dss.virginia.gov
 Tara Gilbert, 540-359-1711, tara.gilbert@dss.virginia.gov

Piedmont: Ali Bell, 540-988-3800, ali.bell@dss.virginia.gov
 Dawn Wilson, 540-580-4121, dawn.m.wilson@dss.virginia.gov
 Tiffany Ray, 540-520-3227, tiffany.ray@dss.virginia.gov

Western: Heather Lewis Owens, 276-525-0446, h.lewis@dss.virginia.gov
 Jeannie Adams, 276-393-9564, jeanniem.adams@dss.virginia.gov
 Latisha Kidd, 276-608-0367, latisha.kidd@dss.virginia.gov

James Williams

Acting Commissioner