

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT[441]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code Supplement section 234.6, the Department of Human Services amends Chapter 202, "Foster Care Services," Iowa Administrative Code.

These amendments make the rule on the Department's responsibility to visit children in foster care consistent with federal expectations based on Title IV-B of the Social Security Act and correct a cross reference.

The amendments require the assigned Department service worker to visit each child in out-of-home placement at least monthly, usually in the place where the child lives. During the visit, the worker shall address the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child, including the child's needs, services to the child, and achievement of the case permanency plan goals. Current rules allow less frequent visits if the Department is purchasing supervision from another agency or if caseloads are high.

The Department is making this change to strengthen its commitment to uniform practice directed toward maintaining the safety, permanency, and well-being of children in out-of-home care. Assuring safety for children in out-of-home care is one of the outcomes measured in the federal Child and Family Services Review. The provision of monthly visits to children in out-of-home care is a condition of the state plan to receive funding under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act. Failure to meet the benchmarks set in Iowa's Title IV-B child and family service plan and program improvement plan for Child and Family Services Review could result in a reduction of federal funding.

These amendments do not provide for waivers in specified situations because visits provide protection to children in out-of-home care.

Notice of Intended Action on these amendments was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on July 2, 2008, as **ARC 6914B**. The Department received no comments on the Notice of Intended Action. These amendments are identical to those published under Notice of Intended Action.

The Council on Human Services adopted these amendments on September 17, 2008.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code Supplement section 234.6(6).

These amendments shall become effective on December 1, 2008.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Pursuant to recommendation of the Administrative Rules Review Committee published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin, September 10, 1986, the text of these amendments [202.3(3), 202.11] is being omitted. These amendments are identical to those published under Notice as **ARC 6914B**, IAB 7/2/08.

[Filed 9/17/08, effective 12/1/08]

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[For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 10/8/08.]