

CHAPTER 202
FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT AND SERVICES

[Prior to 7/1/83, Social Services[770] Ch 136]
[Previously appeared as Ch 136—renumbered IAB 2/29/84]
[Prior to 2/11/87, Human Services[498]]

441—202.1(234) Definitions.

“Age- or developmentally appropriate activities” means activities or items that are generally accepted as suitable for children of the same chronological age or level of maturity or that are determined to be developmentally appropriate for a child, based on the development of cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities that are typical for an age or age group; and in the case of a specific child, activities or items that are suitable for the child based on the developmental stages attained by the child with respect to the cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities of the child.

“Case permanency plan” shall mean the plan identifying goals, needs, strengths, problems, services, time frames for meeting goals and for delivery of the services to the child and parents, objectives, desired outcomes, and responsibilities of all parties involved and reviewing progress.

“Child” shall mean the same as defined by Iowa Code section 234.1.

“Department” shall mean the Iowa department of human services and includes the local offices of the department.

“Eligible child” shall mean a child for whom the court has given guardianship to the department or has transferred legal custody to the department or for whom the department has agreed to provide foster care services on the basis of a signed placement agreement or who has been placed in emergency care for a period of not more than 30 days upon the approval of the director or the director’s designee.

“Facility” means the personnel, program, plant and equipment of a person or agency providing child foster care.

“Family safety, risk, and permanency service” means a service provided under 441—Chapter 172 that uses strategies and interventions designed to achieve safety and permanency for a child with an open department child welfare case, regardless of the setting in which the child resides.

“Foster care” shall mean substitute care furnished on a 24-hour-a-day basis to an eligible child in a licensed or approved facility by a person or agency other than the child’s parent or guardian but does not include care provided in a family home through an informal arrangement for a period of 20 days or less. Child foster care shall include but is not limited to the provision of food, lodging, training, education, supervision, and health care.

“Natural parent” shall mean a parent by blood, marriage, or adoption.

“Person” or *“agency”* shall mean individuals, institutions, partnerships, voluntary associations, and corporations, other than institutions under the management or control of the department, who are licensed by the department as a foster family home, child caring agency or child placing agency, or approved as a shelter care facility.

“Reasonable and prudent parent standard” means the standard characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety, and best interests of a child while at the same time encourage the emotional and developmental growth of the child, that a caregiver shall use when determining whether to allow a child in foster care under the responsibility of the state to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities. For the purposes of this definition, “caregiver” means a foster parent with whom a child in foster care has been placed or a designated official for a child care institution (including group homes, residential treatment, shelters, or other congregate care settings) in which a child in foster care has been placed.

“Resource family” means an individual person or married couple who is licensed to provide foster family care or approved for adoption.

“Safety-related information” means information that indicates whether the child has behaved in a manner that threatened the safety of another person, has committed a violent act causing bodily injury to another person, or has been a victim or perpetrator of sexual abuse.

“*Service area manager*” shall mean the department employee responsible for managing department offices and personnel within the service area and for implementing policies and procedures of the department.

“*Social history*” or “*child study*” means a written description of the child that includes strengths and needs; medical, mental, social, educational, placement and court history; and the child’s relationships with the birth family and significant others.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6(6) “*b.*”
[ARC 8010B, IAB 7/29/09, effective 10/1/09; ARC 2069C, IAB 8/5/15, effective 10/1/15]

441—202.2(234) Eligibility.

202.2(1) Only an eligible child as defined in these rules shall be considered for foster care services supervised by the department.

202.2(2) The need for foster care placement and social and other related services, including but not limited to medical, psychiatric, psychological, and educational services, shall be determined by an assessment of the child and family to determine their needs and the appropriateness of services.

a. Assessments shall include:

(1) The educational, physical, psychological, social, family living, and recreational needs of the child,

(2) The family’s ability to meet those needs, and

(3) A family genogram to determine relatives and other suitable support persons who have a kinship bond with the child.

b. The assessment is a continual process to identify needed changes in service or placement for the child.

202.2(3) With the exception of emergency care, a social history shall be completed on each child before a department recommendation for foster care placement, using the outline RC-0027, Social History Format.

a. For voluntary emergency placements, a social history shall be completed before a decision is made to extend the placement beyond 30 days.

b. For court-ordered emergency placements, a social history shall be completed before the disposition hearing.

202.2(4) Foster care placement shall be recommended by the department only after efforts have been made to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from the family unless the child is in immediate danger at home.

202.2(5) The need for foster care and the efforts to prevent placement shall be evaluated by a review committee prior to placement or, for emergency placements only, within 30 days after the date of placement. For children who are mentally retarded or developmentally disabled and receive case management services, this requirement may be met by the interdisciplinary staffing described in 441—Chapter 90, as long as the service area manager approves, the department worker attends the staffing, and the staffing meets the requirements of paragraphs “*b*” to “*h*” below.

The review shall meet the following requirements:

a. Department staff on the review committee shall be the child’s service worker, a supervisor knowledgeable in child welfare, and one or more additional persons appointed by the service area manager.

b. The review shall be open to the participation of the parents or guardian of the child, local and area education staff, juvenile court staff, the guardian ad litem, current service providers and previous service providers who have maintained a license.

c. The present foster care provider, if any, shall be notified of the review and have the opportunity to participate.

d. Written notice of the review shall be sent to the child’s parents or guardian at least five working days prior to the date of the review.

e. Other persons may be invited to the review with the consent of the parents or guardian.

f. A written summary of the review recommendations shall be sent to the child's parents or guardian following the review.

g. Review committee recommendations shall be advisory to the service worker and supervisor, who are responsible for development of the department case plan and for reports and recommendations to the juvenile court.

h. At least one of the persons on the review committee shall be someone without responsibility for the case management or the delivery of services to either the child or the parents or guardian who are the subject of the review.

202.2(6) The citizenship or alien status of a child who enters foster care must be verified.

a. When the child will remain in foster care for no more than 60 days, Form 470-4500, Statement of Citizenship Status: Foster Care, signed by the parent or guardian of the child is sufficient.

b. When the child will remain in foster care for more than 60 days, one of the documents listed in this paragraph is required. Any one of the following documents shall be accepted as satisfactory documentation of citizenship or nationality:

(1) A certificate of birth in the United States.

(2) Form FS-240 (Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States) issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(3) Form FS-545 or Form DS-1350 (Certification of Birth Abroad) issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(4) A United States passport.

(5) Form I-97 (United States Citizen Identification Card) issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(6) Form N-560 or N-561 (Certificate of United States Citizenship) issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(7) Form N-550 or N-570 (Certificate of Naturalization) issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(8) A valid state-issued driver's license or other identity document described in Section 274A(b)(1)(D) of the United States Immigration and Nationality Act, but only if the state issuing the license or document either:

1. Requires proof of United States citizenship before issuance of the license or document; or

2. Obtains a social security number from the applicant and verifies before certification that the number is valid and is assigned to the applicant who is a citizen.

(9) Another document that provides proof of United States citizenship or nationality as the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services may specify by regulation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 1396b(x)(3)(B)(v) or 1396b(x)(3)(C)(v).

c. A child entering foster care is exempt from these requirements when the family has previously presented satisfactory documentary evidence of citizenship, as specified by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

d. The parent or guardian of the child shall have a reasonable period to obtain and provide proof of citizenship. For the purposes of this requirement, the "reasonable period" begins on the date when the child is placed in foster care and continues to the date when the proof is provided or when the department establishes that the parent or guardian is no longer making a good-faith effort to obtain the proof.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 234.6(1) and 234.6(6) "b."

[ARC 8010B, IAB 7/29/09, effective 10/1/09]

441—202.3(234) Voluntary placements.

202.3(1) All voluntary placement agreements initiated after July 1, 2003, for children under the age of 18 shall terminate after 90 days.

202.3(2) When the voluntary placement is of a child who is under the age of 18, a Voluntary Foster Care Placement Agreement, Form 470-0715, shall be completed and signed by the parent(s) or guardian and the county office where the parent or guardian resides. Voluntary Foster Care Placement Agreements shall not be used to place children outside Iowa and shall not be signed with parents or guardians who

reside outside Iowa. Voluntary Foster Care Placement Agreements shall terminate if the child's parent or guardian moves outside Iowa after the placement.

202.3(3) Voluntary placement of a child aged 18 or older may be granted for six months at a time.

a. The department shall enter into the agreement only when the child:

- (1) Meets the definition of "child" in Iowa Code section 234.1,
- (2) Was in foster care or a state institution immediately before reaching the age of 18,
- (3) Has continued in foster care or a state institution since reaching the age of 18,
- (4) Has demonstrated a willingness to participate in case planning and to fulfill responsibilities as defined in the case permanency plan, and

(5) Will be placed in foster family care or supervised apartment living in Iowa.

b. Payment shall be limited pursuant to 441—paragraph 156.20(1) "b."

c. When the voluntary placement is of a child who is aged 18 or older and who has a court-ordered guardian, the Voluntary Foster Care Placement Agreement, Form 470-0715, shall be completed and signed by the guardian and the local office where the guardian resides. Voluntary Foster Care Agreements shall not be signed with guardians who reside outside Iowa. Voluntary Foster Care Placement Agreements shall terminate if the child's guardian moves outside Iowa after the placement.

d. When the voluntary placement is of a child who is aged 18 or older and who does not have a court-appointed guardian, the Voluntary Foster Care Placement Agreement, Form 470-0715, shall be completed and signed by the child and the local office where the child resides.

e. An exception to the requirement for continuous placement may be made for a youth who leaves foster care at age 18 and voluntarily returns to supervised apartment living foster care before the youth's twentieth birthday in order to complete high school or obtain a general equivalency diploma (GED).

202.3(4) All voluntary placements shall be approved by the service area manager or designee.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 234.6(6) "b" and 234.35(1) "c."

[ARC 8010B, IAB 7/29/09, effective 10/1/09]

441—202.4(234) Selection of facility.

202.4(1) Placement consistent with the best interests and special needs of the child shall be made in the least restrictive, most family-like facility available and in close proximity to the child's home. Race, color, or national origin may not be routinely considered in placement selections.

202.4(2) Efforts shall be made to place siblings together unless to do so would be detrimental to any of the children's physical, emotional or mental well-being. Efforts to prevent separating siblings, reasons for separating siblings, and plans to maintain sibling contact shall be documented in the child's case permanency plan.

202.4(3) The department shall first consider placing the child in a relative's home unless no relatives are available or willing to accept placement or such placement would be detrimental to the child's physical, emotional or mental well-being.

a. If a relative or a suitable person who has a kinship bond with the child will accept placement of the child:

- (1) The person shall sign Form 595-1489, Non-Law Enforcement Record Check Request, and
- (2) The department shall complete record checks as listed in 441—subrule 113.13(1) to evaluate if the person's home is appropriate for the child before making the placement.

b. Efforts to place the child in a relative's home and reasons for using a nonrelative placement shall be documented in the child's case permanency plan.

202.4(4) If the child cannot be placed with a relative or a suitable person who has a kinship bond with the child, foster family care shall be used for a child unless the child has problems which require specialized services that cannot be provided in a family setting. Reasons for using a more restrictive placement shall be documented in the child's case permanency plan.

202.4(5) A foster family shall be selected on the basis of compatibility with the child, taking into consideration:

a. The extent to which interests, strengths, abilities and needs of the foster family enable the foster family members to understand, accept and provide for the individual needs of the child.

b. The child's individual problems, medical needs, and plans for future care. The department shall not place a child with asthma or other respiratory health issues in a foster home where any member of the household smokes.

c. The capacity of the foster family to understand and accept the child's case permanency plan, the needs and attitudes of the child's parents, and the relationship of the child to the parents.

d. The characteristics of the foster family that offer a positive experience for the child who has specific problems as a consequence of past relationships.

e. An environment that will cause minimum disruption of the child including few changes in placement for the child.

f. Rescinded IAB 4/11/07, effective 7/1/07.

202.4(6) A foster group care facility shall be selected on the basis of its ability to meet the needs of the child, promote the child's growth and development, and ensure physical, intellectual and emotional progress during the stay in the facility. The department shall place a child only in a licensed or approved facility which has a current contract with the department pursuant to 441—Chapter 152.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6(6) "b."
[ARC 8010B, IAB 7/29/09, effective 10/1/09]

441—202.5(234) Preplacement.

202.5(1) Except for placements made in less than 24 hours, a child placed in a facility shall have a preplacement visit involving:

- a.* The child,
- b.* The foster parents or agency staff, if the child is placed in a public or private agency,
- c.* The department service worker, and
- d.* The child's parents, unless their presence would be disruptive to the child's placement.

202.5(2) Before placement, the worker shall provide the facility with general information regarding the child, including a description of the child's medical needs, behavioral patterns including safety-related information, educational plans, and permanency goal. Safety-related information shall be withheld only if:

- a.* Withholding the information is ordered by the court; or
- b.* The department or the agency developing the service plan determines that providing the information would be detrimental to the child or to the family with whom the child is living.

202.5(3) The child shall have a physical examination by a physician, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant before the initial placement into foster care, or the physical examination shall be scheduled within 14 calendar days of placement. The physician, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant shall complete a preliminary screening for dental and mental health and refer the child to a dentist or mental health professional if appropriate. To address any immediate medical needs, the child shall be seen immediately at an emergency room, an urgent care center, or other community health resource.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6(6) "b."
[ARC 7606B, IAB 3/11/09, effective 5/1/09; ARC 8010B, IAB 7/29/09, effective 10/1/09; ARC 3185C, IAB 7/5/17, effective 9/1/17]

441—202.6(234) Placement.

202.6(1) At the time of placement, the department worker shall furnish to the foster care provider any available information regarding the child.

- a.* The information provided shall include:
 - (1) The child's full name and date of birth;
 - (2) The names, work addresses, and telephone numbers of the placement worker and the worker's supervisor, including a home telephone, cell phone, or on-call number;
 - (3) The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the child's physician and dentist;
 - (4) The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of significant relatives of the child, including parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, and any other significant persons (for an adopted child, the adoptive parents and adoptive relatives);
 - (5) The case permanency plan;

- (6) The results of a physical examination, including immunization history;
- (7) The child's medical needs including allergies, physical limitations, dental and medical recommendations, and special needs of HIV;
- (8) Behavioral patterns including safety-related information;
- (9) Educational arrangements including, but not limited to, the school the child attends, special education needs, and school contacts;
- (10) The placement contract or agreement including the date of acceptance for care;
- (11) Medical authorizations, service authorizations, and other releases as needed; and
- (12) If the child is an Indian, the identification of the child's tribe and tribal social service agency including telephone number and contact person.

b. Before releasing specific information about HIV, the department shall use Form 470-3225, Authorization to Release HIV-Related Information, to obtain a release from the child or the child's parent or guardian, or a court order permitting the release of the information.

(1) The person receiving this information shall complete Form 470-3227, Receipt of HIV-Related Information, to document understanding of the confidentiality of this knowledge.

(2) Form 470-3226, HIV General Agreement, shall be completed by foster parents who have agreed to care for children who have AIDS, test HIV positive, or are at risk for HIV infection.

c. Safety-related information shall be withheld only if:

- (1) Withholding the information is ordered by the court; or
- (2) The department or the agency developing the service plan determines that providing the information would be detrimental to the child or to the family with whom the child is living.

202.6(2) For each foster care placement in a foster family home supervised directly by department staff, Form 470-0716 or 470-0716(S), Foster Family Placement Contract, shall be completed by the foster family and the placement worker and supervisor. A new foster family placement contract shall be completed when the rate of payment or special provisions change.

202.6(3) A follow-up visit shall be made to the child at the foster family home within two weeks of the initial placement for placements supervised directly by the department.

202.6(4) The case permanency plan shall be reviewed at least every six months to ensure appropriateness of the child's placement. A copy of the subsequent case plan shall be submitted to the court every six months unless the court orders a different frequency for reports.

202.6(5) In conjunction with the case plan review, the case shall be presented every six months to a review committee which conforms to the requirements in subrule 202.2(5). The service area manager may also approve a review by a local foster care review board authorized in Iowa Code section 237.19 or the court as meeting this requirement as long as the review conforms to subrule 202.2(5), paragraphs "b" to "h," and to subrule 202.6(5), paragraphs "a" to "e." The review committee shall:

- a.* Evaluate the continuing necessity for foster care placement.
- b.* Evaluate the continuing appropriateness of the foster care placement.
- c.* Evaluate the extent of compliance with the case plan.
- d.* Evaluate the extent of progress made toward lessening the causes for foster care placement.
- e.* Project a likely date by which the child will leave foster care.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 234.6(6) "b," and 237.19.

[ARC 8010B, IAB 7/29/09, effective 10/1/09]

441—202.7(234) Out-of-area placements.

202.7(1) When the department makes a placement of a child in the foster care system out of the service area in which the child resides, this placement shall occur only when there is no appropriate placement within the service area, when the placement is necessary to facilitate reunification of the child with the parents, or when an out-of-area agency is closer to the community where the child resides than an in-area agency offering the same services.

202.7(2) The authority for approving out-of-area placements rests with both the placing and receiving service area managers.

202.7(3) Transfer of responsibility for supervision, planning, and visitation shall be approved by the placing and receiving service area managers and, when appropriate, by the court.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6(6)“b.”

441—202.8(234) Out-of-state placements.

202.8(1) The department shall make an out-of-state foster family care placement only with the approval of the service area manager or designee. Approval shall be granted only when the placement will not interfere with the goals of the child’s case permanency plan and when one of the following conditions exists:

- a. The foster family with whom the child is placed is moving out of state.
- b. An out-of-state family having previous knowledge of the child desires to provide foster care to the child.
- c. An out-of-state family is approved to adopt the child under subsidy and is eligible to receive maintenance payments until the adoption is final.
- d. An out-of-state placement is necessary to facilitate reunification of the child with the parents.

202.8(2) Placements shall be made in an out-of-state group care facility only with the approval of the service area manager or designee.

202.8(3) All out-of-state placements shall be made pursuant to interstate compact procedures.

202.8(4) The reasons for selecting an out-of-state placement shall be documented in the child’s case permanency plan.

202.8(5) Regional out-of-state placement committees. Rescinded IAB 7/6/94, effective 7/1/94.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6(6)“b.”

[ARC 8010B, IAB 7/29/09, effective 10/1/09]

441—202.9(234) Supervised apartment living. A supervised apartment living arrangement shall provide a child with an environment in which the child can experience living in the community with supervision and prepare for self-sufficiency. The child must have the capacity to live in the community with less supervision than that provided by a foster family or in a group care setting and must be able to follow the provisions of the case plan and participate in activities and services to achieve self-sufficiency.

202.9(1) Living arrangements.

a. The two types of supervised apartment living arrangements are as follows:

(1) A cluster setting, which provides support in a structured setting. Up to six children reside in apartments or bedrooms in one building (such as an apartment building or residential housing), supervised by one agency. The supervising agency must have an adult staff member present and available on site in the living arrangement at any time when more than one child is present.

(2) A scattered-site setting, which is the less restrictive of the two types of living arrangements. Up to three children supervised by one agency may reside in individual housing arrangements, such as apartments or residential housing, located in one building. Children must be able to contact supervising agency staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

b. If an agency rents an apartment to the child, there shall be a signed lease between both parties that includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Amount to be paid for the rental unit.
- (2) The term of the lease with both a beginning and an ending date.
- (3) Rights and responsibilities of the tenant.
- (4) Rights and responsibilities of the landlord.
- (5) Conditions under which the lease can be terminated.

202.9(2) Eligibility. To be eligible for supervised apartment living placement, a child shall meet all of the following conditions:

- a. The child must be at least 16½ years old for placement in a cluster setting.
- b. The child must be at least 17 years old for placement in a scattered-site setting.
- c. If the child is under the age of 18, the child must:

(1) Satisfactorily attend school, in accordance with the school's attendance policies, with the objective of obtaining a high school diploma; or

(2) Satisfactorily attend an instructional program, pursuant to the program's policies, necessary to obtain a general equivalency diploma (GED); or

(3) Attend school to obtain postsecondary education or training on a full-time basis (based upon the institution's definition of full-time) or attend on a part-time basis and be either working or participating in a work training program leading to employment; or

(4) Work at least an average of 80 hours per month if not enrolled in school; or

(5) Participate in a work training program leading to employment if not enrolled in school.

d. If the child is aged 18 or older, the child must:

(1) Meet the definition of "child" in Iowa Code section 234.1; and

(2) Have been in foster care immediately before reaching the age of 18 and have continued in foster care since reaching the age of 18. The service area manager or designee may waive the requirement for continuous placement for a child who leaves foster care at age 18 and voluntarily returns before the child's twentieth birthday in order to complete high school or obtain a GED, consistent with Iowa Code sections 234.35(1) "f" and 234.35(3) "c"; and

(3) Attend school on a full-time basis leading to a high school diploma or attend an instructional program leading to a GED.

e. The child must need foster care placement and services, based on an assessment completed according to rule 441—202.2(234) and subrule 202.6(5).

f. The child must participate in services and activities to achieve self-sufficiency.

g. The child must have the capacity to live in the community with less supervision than that provided by a foster family or in a group care setting, as determined by an assessment that reviews available information on the child to identify the needs, strengths, and resources of the child, especially as they pertain to the child's ability to function in the community. To determine if a supervised apartment living foster care placement is suitable for the child, the department worker must complete Form 470-4063, Preplacement Screening for Supervised Apartment Living Foster Care.

h. The child must have an approved living situation that meets the following minimum standards:

(1) Comply with applicable state and local zoning, fire, sanitary and safety regulations.

(2) Be located so as to provide reasonably convenient access to schools, places of employment, and services and supports required by the child.

(3) Be reasonably priced so as to fit within the child's budget.

i. If supervised apartment living foster care is deemed suitable for the child, the worker shall complete Form 470-3186, Request for Approval of Supervised Apartment Living Foster Care Placement, to request that the service area manager or designee approve the placement. This form is also to be used to request that the service area manager or designee waive the requirement for continuous placement for a child who leaves foster care on or after the child's eighteenth birthday and voluntarily returns before the child's twentieth birthday in order to complete high school or obtain a GED.

j. The placement must have the approval of the juvenile court if the child is under court jurisdiction.

202.9(3) Services to be provided. To ensure that the supervised apartment living arrangement is meeting the child's needs, required services shall be provided directly by the department or purchased from an agency that has a contract with the department to provide supervised apartment living foster care services. The following services are required:

a. Development of a case or service plan (by either the department worker or the service provider, if contracted out) in consultation with the child and the child's family (unless a reason for noninvolvement is documented in the case record) and significant others whenever appropriate that documents the following:

(1) Goals, intended to meet the specific needs of the child to achieve self-sufficiency, with projected dates of accomplishment.

(2) Objectives (action steps) to be taken by the child, the child's support system, and staff, with projected dates of accomplishment.

(3) Services to be provided and activities to be undertaken, the frequency of such services, who will provide the services, the child's progress with the goals and objectives, and the child's compliance with the service plan.

(4) A budget, developed with the child, based upon the child's monthly maintenance payment, any start-up allowance, any earned or unearned incomes and financially related assistance (e.g., food assistance). Staff will work with the child to ensure payment of bills and receipt of necessary items as outlined in the budget.

b. Life skills training involving interpersonal and daily living skills training to prepare the child to maintain a safe, healthy, and stable lifestyle and achieve self-sufficiency. Life skills training includes training of "hard" skills (e.g., money management, self-care and hygiene, physical and mental health care, skills related to educational and employment goals, housing and home management, time management, accessing community resources) and training of "soft" skills (e.g., decision making, problem solving, developing healthy relationships, self-advocacy). Life skills training should be individualized to the needs of the child toward achieving self-sufficiency. If a child needs a specific life skills training service or services (e.g., parenting skill development, counseling services to reduce stress and social, emotional, or behavioral problems that affect the child's stability or ability to achieve self-sufficiency) in addition to basic life skills training services and services are purchased, the department worker will specify the necessary services under special provisions on Form 470-5081, Placement Agreement and Service Authorization for Supervised Apartment Living (SAL).

c. Through visits with the child and to the living situation, determination and documentation that:

(1) The living arrangement and mode of living are safe and suitable and provide an environment that allows for the child's social and emotional needs to be met; and

(2) There is no reasonable cause to believe that the child's living situation or mode of living presents any unacceptable risks to the child's health or safety; and

(3) The child has access to a telephone; and

(4) There is an operating smoke alarm on each level of occupancy; and

(5) The child is receiving any necessary medical care; and

(6) The child is receiving appropriate and sufficient services and supports to achieve the child's goals and facilitate objectives according to the child's service plan.

d. Supervision to assist the child in developing the needed structure to live in the supervised apartment living setting and in locating and using other needed services. If the child is under the age of 18, supervision shall include a minimum of weekly face-to-face contacts. For a child aged 18 or older, supervision shall include a minimum of biweekly (every other week) face-to-face contacts. Supervision may include guidance, oversight, and behavior monitoring.

e. Ongoing assessment activities to monitor the child's ability to achieve self-sufficiency.

f. If services are purchased, visits by the department to the child according to subrule 202.11(2).

g. If services are purchased, compliance by the provider with all reporting requirements as required by the provider's contract with the department, including requirements for the individual service plan, quarterly reports, and a termination summary.

h. A review of the case and case plan every six months, in accordance with subrules 202.6(4) and 202.6(5).

202.9(4) Method of service provision. Supervised apartment living services may be provided directly by the department or purchased from an agency that has a contract with the department to provide supervised apartment living foster care services. If services are purchased:

a. Department staff shall be responsible to determine the specific service components and the specific number of service units to be provided for required services. The department case permanency plan shall specify the goals and objectives (action steps) of the services that are being purchased. If services are purchased, the worker shall complete Form 470-5081, Placement Agreement and Service Authorization for Supervised Apartment Living (SAL), to place the child with the contractor and to authorize service codes (scattered-site or cluster setting; individual services or services provided with a group of children in supervised apartment living placement) and the specific number of units to be provided and billable.

b. Service billings for services shall be based on one hour (one unit equals one hour of service), or any portion thereof (with monthly cumulative units rounded up or down to the nearest whole unit), of:

- (1) Direct face-to-face contact between the service provider and the child.
- (2) Activities undertaken to assist the child in developing the needed structure and supports to live in the supervised apartment living setting.

(3) Activities undertaken to assist the child in locating and using other needed services, supports, and community resources and to consult and collaborate on service directions on behalf of the child with schools, employers, landlords, volunteers, extended family members, peer support groups, training resources, or other community resources.

c. Service billings for group services shall be based on one hour (one unit equals one hour of service), or any portion thereof (with monthly cumulative units rounded up or down to the nearest whole unit), for each child in the group.

d. Expenses of transporting the child, service management activities, and other administrative functions shall be allowable indirect costs subject to the restrictions set forth in 441—subrule 152.2(6) and are not billable units of service.

e. Contractors providing a cluster setting shall be paid \$551.25 per month per child in the setting for agency staffing costs, in addition to billable units of services provided to the child, but are eligible for this payment only when two or more children are in the setting. For a child who enters a cluster setting during the month, the prorated amount per day is \$18.12. If a child exits the setting on or before the last day of the month, the \$551.25 shall be prorated up to the date before the date of exit.

202.9(5) Termination of services.

a. Mandatory termination. Supervised apartment living services shall be terminated when the child:

- (1) No longer meets eligibility criteria;
- (2) No longer needs services or needs a more restrictive level of placement;
- (3) Chooses to live in a nonapproved setting; or
- (4) Refuses to follow the provisions of the case plan.

b. When services are purchased and the department plans to remove a child from the supervised apartment living placement, the department shall inform the provider in writing of the date of removal, the reason for the removal, the recourse available, if any, and that the contested case (appeal) proceeding does not apply to the removal.

c. The provider shall be informed ten days in advance of the removal, except when the court orders removal of the child from the placement or there is evidence of neglect or physical or sexual abuse.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6.

[ARC 0417C, IAB 10/31/12, effective 1/1/13; ARC 2342C, IAB 1/6/16, effective 2/10/16; ARC 2885C, IAB 1/4/17, effective 3/1/17]

441—202.10(234) Services to foster parents. Foster parents shall be provided necessary supportive services for the purpose of aiding them in the care and supervision of the child. These services shall include, but not be limited to:

202.10(1) Availability of social service staff on a 24-hour basis in case of emergency.

202.10(2) Conferences to develop in-depth planning regarding family visits, expectations of the department, future objectives and time frames, use of resources, and termination of placements.

202.10(3) Visitation by the service worker at least monthly regardless of the duration of the placements.

202.10(4) Making available all known pertinent information needed for the care of the child including HIV status, safety-related information, and special confidentiality requirements.

a. Before releasing specific information about HIV, the department shall use Form 470-3225, Authorization to Release HIV-Related Information, to obtain a release from the child or the child's parent or guardian, or a court order permitting the release of the information. The person receiving this information shall complete Form 470-3227, Receipt of HIV-Related Information, to document understanding of the confidentiality of this knowledge.

b. Safety-related information shall be withheld only if:

- (1) Withholding the information is ordered by the court; or
- (2) The department or the agency developing the service plan determines that providing the information would be detrimental to the child or to the family with whom the child is living.

c. When continued breastfeeding of the child is determined to be in the best interest of the child, the service worker and the foster parents shall make reasonable efforts to support the continued breastfeeding of the child by the mother.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6(6) “b.”

441—202.11(234) Services to the child. The department service worker shall maintain a continuous relationship with the child.

202.11(1) The department service worker shall:

- a. Help the child plan for the future,
- b. Evaluate the child’s needs and progress,
- c. Supervise the living arrangement,
- d. Arrange for social and other related services including, but not limited to, medical, psychiatric, psychological, and educational services from other resources as needed, and
- e. Counsel the child in adjusting to the placement.

202.11(2) The assigned department service worker shall personally visit each child in out-of-home care at least once every calendar month, with the frequency of the visits based upon the needs of the child.

- a. The visit shall take place in the child’s place of residence the majority of the time.
- b. The visit shall be of sufficient length to focus on issues pertinent to case planning. 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.

202.11(3) When placement of a breastfeeding child is made, the service worker shall:

- a. Assess in consultation with the worker’s supervisor whether continued breastfeeding by the mother is in the best interest of the child;
- b. Make every reasonable effort to support the mother’s continued breastfeeding for the child if determined appropriate; and
- c. Document the assessment and efforts in the child’s case plan and case notes.

202.11(4) When a child is in continuous foster care, a new physical examination shall not be required when the child transfers from one foster care placement to another unless there is some indication that an examination is necessary. The service worker shall obtain from the health practitioner or practitioners an annual medical review of treatment the child has received.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6(6) “b.”

202.11(5) Throughout the provision of care, the foster care provider shall actively ensure that the child stays connected to the child’s kin, culture, and community as documented in the child’s case permanency plan.

202.11(6) Throughout the provision of care, the foster care provider is permitted to use the reasonable and prudent parent standard to create opportunities for participation of the child in age- or developmentally appropriate activities.

202.11(7) Transition planning program. The purpose of the transition planning program is to provide services, supports, activities and referrals to programs that assist children currently or formerly in foster care in acquiring skills and abilities necessary for transition to successful adulthood. The transition planning program offers a life skills assessment, transition plan development, and transition-related services, supports, activities and referrals to programs.

a. *Eligibility.* To be eligible for the transition planning program, a child must be or have been in foster care as defined by rule 441—202.1(234) or 45 Code of Federal Regulations 1355.20 as amended to October 1, 2008, and must meet at least one of the following eligibility requirements:

- (1) Is currently in foster care and is 14 years of age or older.
- (2) Is under the age of 21 and was adopted from foster care at 16 years of age or older.
- (3) Is under the age of 21 and was placed in a subsidized guardianship arrangement from foster care at 16 years of age or older.

(4) Was formerly in foster care and is eligible for and participating in Iowa's aftercare services program as described at 441—Chapter 187.

(5) Was formerly in foster care and is eligible for and participating in Iowa's postsecondary education and training voucher (ETV) program as described at 42 U.S.C. Section 677(a)(6-7).

b. Assessment. A life skills assessment shall be administered to all children in foster care who are aged 14 or older. An assessment shall be available upon request to any child who has been discharged from foster care but meets the eligibility requirements in paragraph "a." The assessment is designed to evaluate the child's strengths and needs in areas including, but not limited to:

- (1) Education,
- (2) Physical and mental health,
- (3) Employment,
- (4) Housing and money management, and
- (5) Supportive relationships.

c. Transition plan development. A transition plan shall be completed for all children in foster care who are aged 14 or older, as provided in Iowa Code section 232.2(4) "f." Transition plan development shall also be available upon request to any child who has been discharged from foster care but meets the eligibility requirements in paragraph "a," but the transition plan will not be part of a case permanency plan. Transition plan requirements include the following:

(1) The transition plan shall be personalized at the direction of the child and shall be developed in consultation with the child and reviewed by the department in collaboration with a child-centered transition team, honoring the goals and concerns of the child.

(2) The transition plan shall document that the child received and signed a document that describes the rights of the child with respect to education, health, visitation, and court participation. The document must be signed by the child indicating that the child has been provided with a copy of the document and that the rights contained in the document have been explained to the child in an age-appropriate way.

(3) The transition plan shall document that the child received a copy of any credit report pertaining to the child as provided by the child's caseworker on an annual basis until the child is discharged from foster care. The child must receive assistance from the child's caseworker in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the report.

(4) The transition plan shall document that any child leaving foster care at the age of 18 or older was provided with the following documents and information unless the child has been in foster care for less than 30 days or is not eligible to receive such document:

1. An official or certified copy of the child's birth certificate.
2. The child's social security card.
3. A driver's license or identification card issued by the state to the child.
4. Health insurance information.
5. A copy of the child's medical and education records.

(5) The transition plan shall document that the caseworker provided to the child, at the case permanency plan review in the 90 days before the child reached the age of 18, information and education about the importance of having a durable power of attorney for health care and a copy of the state's form used to identify such a proxy. The child has the option to complete the form at the age of 18 or older.

(6) The transition plan shall address the strengths and needs identified in the assessment and detail the services, supports, activities and referrals to programs needed to implement the plan to best assist the child in preparing for successful adulthood. The membership of the transition team and the meeting dates for the team shall be documented in the transition plan.

(7) The transition plan shall be reviewed and updated at each case review after the plan's initial development; within 90 days before the child's eighteenth birthday; and within 90 days before the child is expected to leave foster care if the child remains in care after reaching the age of 18.

d. Transition services. Children shall be offered services, supports, activities and referrals to programs within, but not limited to, the five areas described below according to the child's age and development, strengths and needs, permanency goal, and placement as documented in the case permanency plan.

(1) Education skills increase the child's chances of completing high school or obtaining high school equivalency and of entering a satisfying career. Services may include assistance in academic advising and guidance, secondary and postsecondary educational support, records transfer coordination, tutoring, financial aid planning, career exploration, mentoring, and career advising. Financial assistance for postsecondary education and training may be available to eligible children.

(2) Physical and mental health skills promote healthy physical, mental and emotional functioning. Health education services may include guidance on risk prevention, how to be healthy and fit, how to self-advocate for health care needs and access to health insurance, how to select medical professionals, and how to make informed decisions regarding treatment, lifestyle considerations, spirituality, and recreation. Provision must be made for the child's application for adult services if it is likely the child will need or be eligible for services or other support from the adult service system.

(3) Employment skills enable children to prepare for, seek, and maintain gainful career employment. Services may include employment programs or vocational training, employment search resources, career advising, résumé writing, interview skills, workplace etiquette, and on-the-job training.

(4) Housing and money management skills prepare a child to select, manage, and maintain safe and stable housing. Services may include lessons on the physical maintenance and cleaning of a house and guidance on managing personal finances, such as financial decisions, budgeting, bill paying, use of credit, and financing. Financial assistance for items, including room and board, may be available to children who meet the eligibility criteria of the aftercare services program pursuant to 441—Chapter 187.

(5) Supportive relationships skills promote the healthy development and maintenance of rewarding, lasting relationships. Services may include family support and healthy marriage education, mentoring opportunities, and guidance on how to recognize the needs of others, how to identify and understand personal motivations, how to ensure personal safety, and how to communicate effectively.

[ARC 7606B, IAB 3/11/09, effective 5/1/09; ARC 8010B, IAB 7/29/09, effective 10/1/09; ARC 8718B, IAB 5/5/10, effective 7/1/10; ARC 0417C, IAB 10/31/12, effective 1/1/13; ARC 2069C, IAB 8/5/15, effective 10/1/15; ARC 2743C, IAB 10/12/16, effective 12/1/16]

441—202.12(234) Services to parents.

202.12(1) Child welfare services shall be made available to the parents throughout the period of placement for the purpose of reuniting the family in an agreed-upon time frame. Family safety, risk, and permanency services may be provided to:

- a. Promote identification and enhancement of family strengths and protective capacities;
- b. Address the factors that resulted in the child's being removed from the family home; and
- c. Strengthen family connections to community resources and informal supports.

202.12(2) Placement notification.

a. The parents shall be notified of the location and nature of the child's placement, unless the conditions of this subrule are met.

(1) The department evaluates the situation and determines that notifying the child's parents of the location of the placement would be detrimental to the child's safety and well-being and to the stability of the child's placement due to:

1. Evidence of a direct or indirect threat to harm the foster child or the foster family; or
2. Credible third-party information of a threat of harm to the foster child or the foster family.

(2) The department includes a statement in the child's case permanency plan explaining the decision not to disclose the location of the child to the parents.

b. The decision not to disclose the location of a child's placement shall be reviewed at least every six months when the child's case permanency plan is revised.

202.12(3) The case plan and treatment plan shall specify the services to be provided and the time frame for reuniting the family. These plans shall be developed in cooperation with the parents.

202.12(4) Personal contact shall be made regularly with the parents and the progress towards goal attainment reviewed and documented in the case record. The frequency of the personal contact shall be at least monthly and shall be specified in the child's case permanency plan.

202.12(5) When placement of a breastfeeding child is made, the service worker shall:

- a. Assess in consultation with the worker's supervisor whether continued breastfeeding by the mother is in the best interest of the child;
- b. Make every reasonable effort to support the mother's continued breastfeeding of the child if determined appropriate; and
- c. Document the assessment and efforts in the child's case plan and case notes.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6(6) "b."
 [ARC 8010B, IAB 7/29/09, effective 10/1/09; ARC 9961B, IAB 1/11/12, effective 12/15/11]

441—202.13(234) Removal of the child.

202.13(1) When the department plans to remove a child from a facility, the facility shall be informed in writing of the date of the removal, the reason for the removal, the recourse available to the facility, if any, and that the chapter 17A contested case proceeding is not applicable to the removal. The department shall inform the facility ten days in advance of the removal, except that the facility may be informed less than ten days prior to the removal in the following instances:

- a. When the parent or guardian removes the child from voluntary placement.
- b. When the court orders removal of a child from placement.
- c. When there is evidence of neglect or physical or sexual abuse.

202.13(2) The department may remove a child from a facility when any of the following conditions exist:

- a. There is evidence of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of the child.
- b. The child needs a specialized service that the facility does not offer.
- c. The child is unable to benefit from the placement as evidenced by lack of progress of the child.
- d. There is evidence the facility is unable to provide the care needed by the child and fulfill its responsibilities under the case plan.
- e. There is lack of cooperation of the facility with the department.

202.13(3) If a foster family objects in writing within seven days from the date that the department furnishes notice of plans to remove the child, the service area manager or designee shall grant a conference to the foster family to determine whether the removal is in the child's best interest.

a. This conference shall not be construed to be a contested case under the Iowa administrative procedure Act, Iowa Code chapter 17A.

b. The conference shall be provided before the child is removed except in instances listed in 202.13(1) "a" to "c." The service area manager or designee shall review the propriety of the removal and explain the decision to the foster family.

c. The service area manager or designee, on finding that the removal is not in the child's best interests, may overrule the removal decision unless a court order or parental decision prevents the department from doing so.

202.13(4) When the facility requests a child be removed from its care, it shall give a minimum of ten days' notice to the department so planning may be made on behalf of the child.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6(6) "b."
 [ARC 8010B, IAB 7/29/09, effective 10/1/09]

441—202.14(234) Termination. The foster care services shall be terminated when the child is no longer an eligible child, or when the attainment of goals in the case plan has been achieved, or when the goals for whatever reasons cannot be achieved, or when it is evident that the family or individual is unable to benefit from the service or unwilling to accept further services.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6(6) "b."

441—202.15(234) Case permanency plan.

202.15(1) The department worker shall ensure that a case permanency plan is developed for each child who is placed in foster care if the department has agreed to provide foster care through a voluntary placement agreement, if a court has transferred custody or guardianship to the department for the purpose

of foster care, or if a court has placed the child in foster care and ordered the department to supervise the placement.

202.15(2) The department worker shall develop the case permanency plan with the child's parents, unless the child's parents are unwilling to participate in the plan's development, and with the child, unless the child is unable or unwilling to participate. For a child 14 years of age or older in foster care, the case permanency plan must be developed in consultation with the child. The child may choose up to two members of the case planning team who are not the child's foster parent or caseworker. The department may reject an individual selected by a child at any time if the department has good cause to believe the individual would not act in the best interests of the child. One individual selected by the child to be a member of a child's case planning team may be designated to be the child's advisor and, as necessary, advocate with respect to the use of the reasonable and prudent parent standard.

202.15(3) The department worker shall be responsible for ensuring the development of the case permanency plan within the time frames specified in rule 441—130.7(234). In all cases, the case permanency plan shall be completed within 60 days of the date the child entered foster care.

202.15(4) Copies of the initial and subsequent case permanency plans shall be provided to the child, the child's parents, and the foster care provider. Copies shall also be provided to the following, if involved in services to the child: the juvenile court officer, the judge, the child's attorney, the child's guardian ad litem, the child's guardian, the child's custodian, the child's court-appointed special advocate, the parents' attorneys, the county attorney, the state foster care review board, and any other interested parties identified in the plan.

202.15(5) The initial and subsequent case permanency plans shall be completed on the forms specified in rule 441—130.7(234).

202.15(6) Rescinded IAB 4/28/04, effective 6/2/04.
[ARC 2069C, IAB 8/5/15, effective 10/1/15]

441—202.16(135H) Department approval of need for a psychiatric medical institution for children.

202.16(1) Applicants for departmental approval of need shall submit the following to the division of child and family services:

a. A description of the population to be served, including age, sex, and types of disorders, and an estimate of the number of these youth in need of psychiatric care in the area of the state in which the applicant is located.

b. A statement of the number of beds requested and a description of the treatment program to be provided, the outcomes to be achieved and the techniques for measuring outcomes.

c. A proposed date of operation as a psychiatric medical institution for children.

d. A description of the applicant's experience with providing similar services to youth, especially the target population.

e. A description of the applicant's plan, including the timeline for achieving accreditation to provide psychiatric services from a federally recognized accrediting organization under the organization's standards for residential settings and licensure as a psychiatric medical institution for children, or a copy of the organization's report if already accredited.

f. References from the service area manager for the department service area in which the proposed psychiatric medical institution for children would be located, the chief juvenile court officer of the judicial district in which the proposed psychiatric medical institution for children would be located and the applicant's licenser from the department of inspections and appeals or department of public health.

202.16(2) The department shall evaluate proposals and issue a decision based on the following criteria:

a. The number of psychiatric medical institutions for children beds for the proposed population which are needed in the area of the state in which the facility would be located, based on the department's most recent needs assessment.

b. The steps the facility has taken towards achieving accreditation from a federally recognized accrediting organization and licensure as a psychiatric medical institution for children.

c. The applicant's ability to provide services and support consistent with the requirements under Iowa Code chapter 232 including, but not limited to, evidence that:

- (1) Children will be served in a setting which is in close proximity to their parents' home.
- (2) Each child will receive services consistent with the child's best interests and special psychiatric needs as identified in the child's case permanency plan.
- (3) Children and their families will receive services to facilitate the children's return home or other permanent placement.

d. The applicant's ability to provide children with a non-hospital-type living environment if the applicant is not freestanding from a hospital or health care facility.

e. The limits on the number of beds found in Iowa Code section 135H.6, subsection 5.

202.16(3) If a facility has not been licensed as a psychiatric medical institution for children within one year after the date of the department's approval of need, the department's approval shall expire unless the department has approved an extension. An extension may be approved up to a maximum of six months if the agency has documented extenuating circumstances which prevented completion of the licensing process.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 135H.6.

441—202.17(232) Area group care targets.

202.17(1) *Area target.* A group care budget target shall be established for each departmental service area, which shall be based on the annual statewide group care appropriation established by the general assembly.

a. The department and the judicial branch shall jointly develop a formula for allocating the group care appropriation among the departmental service areas. The formula shall be based on:

- (1) Proportional child population.
- (2) Proportional group foster care usage in the previous five completed fiscal years.
- (3) Other indicators of need.

b. Any portion of the group care appropriation allocated for 50 highly structured juvenile program beds and not used may be used for group care.

c. Upon written agreement of the affected service area managers and chief juvenile court officers, service areas may transfer part of their group care budget from one service area to another. A service area may exceed its budget target figure up to 5 percent during the fiscal year, providing that the overall funding allocation by the department for all child welfare services in the service area is not exceeded.

d. Notwithstanding the statewide appropriation established in this subrule, a budget established in a service area's group care plan pursuant to Iowa Code section 232.143 may be exceeded, a group care placement may be ordered, and state payment may be made if the review organization finds that the placement is necessary to meet the child's service needs and if the service area has additional funds transferred from another service area or if the service area is within 5 percent of its group care budget target figure pursuant to 441—paragraph 202.17(1)“c.”

The department and juvenile court services shall work together to ensure that a service area's group care expenditures shall not exceed the funds allocated to the service area for group care in the fiscal year.

e. If at any time after September 30, 1998, annualization of a service area's current expenditures indicates a service area is at risk of exceeding its group foster care expenditure target under Iowa Code section 232.143 by more than 5 percent, the department and juvenile court services shall examine all group foster care placements in that service area in order to identify those which might be appropriate for termination. In addition, any aftercare services believed to be needed for the children whose placements may be terminated shall be identified.

The department and juvenile court services shall initiate action to set dispositional review hearings for the placements identified. In the dispositional review hearing, the juvenile court shall determine whether needed aftercare services are available and whether termination of the placement is in the best interest of the child and the community.

202.17(2) *Plan for achieving target.* For each of the departmental service areas, representatives appointed by the department and juvenile court services shall establish a plan for containing the

expenditure for children placed in group care within the budget target allocated to that service area. The plan shall include monthly targets and strategies for developing alternatives to group care placements.

The plans shall also ensure potential group care referrals are reviewed by the review organization prior to submission of a recommendation for group care placement to the court.

Each area plan shall be established in advance of the fiscal year to which the plan applies. To the extent possible, the department and the juvenile court shall coordinate the planning required under this subrule with planning for services paid under Iowa Code section 232.141, subsection 4. The department's service area manager shall communicate regularly, as specified in the area plan, with the juvenile courts within the service area concerning the current status of the plan's implementation.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 232.143.

441—202.18(235) Local transition committees. Local transition committees shall be established in each of the department service areas. The service area manager or designee shall determine the number of local transition committees needed within the service area, set operating policies and procedures, and appoint committee membership.

202.18(1) Purpose. The purpose of local transition committees, as established by Iowa Code Supplement section 235.7, is to ensure that the transition needs of youth in foster care who are 16 years of age or older have been addressed in order to assist the youth in preparing for the transition from foster care to adulthood.

202.18(2) Membership. Each committee shall have a designated number of members.

a. The standing committee membership may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) Department staff involved with child welfare, adult services, or transition planning.
- (2) Juvenile court services staff.
- (3) Adult service system staff.
- (4) Education staff.
- (5) Service care provider representation.
- (6) Others knowledgeable about community resources.

b. Additionally, nonstanding membership may include those knowledgeable about the youth, including the child's court-appointed special advocate, guardian ad litem, and service or care providers.

c. In areas where teams or boards already in existence are involved in review and planning for youth needs, such as the foster care review board or child welfare funding decategorization boards, such teams or boards may serve as local transition committees.

202.18(3) Duties. Local transition committees shall address the transition needs of youth in foster care who are 16 years of age or older and who have a case permanency plan as defined in Iowa Code Supplement section 232.2. Each committee shall have operating policies and procedures to carry out the duties below.

a. Each committee shall establish a process for review and approval of written transition plans for youth for whom the committee has placement responsibility that meets a continuum of case needs and coordinates with local transition planning protocol. The process may include a paper review or an in-person review, or both, according to case need.

b. The committee may be involved when the youth is at least 16 years of age, but shall be involved in reviewing and approving a youth's transition plan before the youth reaches age 17½. When a youth enters foster care at age 17½ or older, the committee shall be involved in reviewing and approving the youth's transition plan within 30 days of completion.

c. In reviewing a youth's transition plan, the committee shall identify and act to address gaps existing in services or supports available that would assist the youth in the transition from foster care to adulthood.

d. For those youth expected to need services as adults, the committee shall ensure that the transition plan was developed with the participation of any person reasonably expected to be a service provider when the youth becomes an adult or to become responsible for the costs of services at that time.

e. The committee shall ensure that transition planning and review is coordinated with overall case planning and review. Committee review and approval shall be indicated in the youth's case permanency plan.

f. With respect to meetings involving a specific youth receiving foster care and the youth's family, the local transition committees are not subject to Iowa Code chapter 21.

g. The information and records of or provided to a local transition committee regarding a youth receiving foster care and the youth's family are not public records pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 22 when the records relate to the foster care placement and transition needs of the youth.

h. Members of the committees are subject to the standards of confidentiality set forth in Iowa Code sections 600.16, 217.30 and 235A.15.

202.18(4) Report. The service area manager or designee shall submit a report on transition planning committees to the department's division of child and family services. The report shall be submitted annually by October 1 for the immediately preceding fiscal year. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a.* The geographical area covered for each committee within the service area.
- b.* Standing committee membership for each committee.
- c.* The number of cases reviewed by each committee.
- d.* Identification of barriers to successful transition and gaps in community services or supports.
- e.* Suggestions for ways to transition youth from foster care to adulthood more effectively.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code Supplement section 235.7.

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