

**EFFECTIVE**

September 1, 2015.

**Subject(s)**

**FOM 722-06I, Maintaining Connections through Visitation and Contact**

**Frequency of Parenting Time**

The required number of parent/child visits for children newborn to two years old has been reduced from three visits to two visits per week. This change applies to children coming into care on or after September 1, 2015. Families with an established parenting time plan may not have their visits reduced unless the biological/legal parent(s) request the change in writing. Written requests must be uploaded in MiSACWIS and documented as a social work contact.

*Reason:* Children's Services Administration decision.

**Parenting Time Exceptions in MiSACWIS**

The only allowable exceptions for missed parenting time include:

1. The court orders less frequent visits.
2. One or both parents cannot attend the visits due to compelling circumstances such as hospitalization or incarceration.
3. The child is above the age of 16 and refuses such visits take place.
4. The parents are not attending the visits despite the caseworker taking adequate steps to ensure the parents' ability to visit.

Clarification has been provided for the fourth exception. This exception must only be used when a parent is chronically and habitually missing parenting time. When this exception is used, the caseworker must document (in the case service plan) his or her efforts to assist the parent in resolving the barriers to attending parenting time.

All exceptions must be recorded in MiSACWIS and all reasonable efforts to assure that visits take place must be documented in the

case service plan. When an exception is recorded, the caseworker must review the appropriateness of the child’s permanency goal.

Exceptions must be reevaluated quarterly or anytime circumstances necessitate a change to the parenting time/visitation plan.

*Reason:* Office of Child Welfare Policy and Procedure (OCWPP) policy clarification, as requested by field staff.

**Expansion of Parenting Time**

This section was reorganized for clarity and emphasis.

*Reason:* OCWPP policy clarification.

**Reassessment of Parenting Time**

Caseworkers are required to evaluate compliance with the parenting time plan monthly (during supervision). If the parenting time plan was not expanded, the caseworker must clearly document, in the visitation plan, the reason for continuing parenting time as previously outlined.

Supervisors must review and approve the parenting time plan. Supervisors must assist caseworkers in determining when it is appropriate to expand visitation based on the specific circumstances of each case.

*Reason:* OCWPP policy clarification.

**Sibling Visitation**

This section was reworded to clarify that siblings in foster care, who are not placed together, must have at least one visit per calendar month that is separate from parenting time, unless an exception exists. Caseworkers must make and document their efforts to facilitate visitation for a child whose siblings are not in foster care.

*Reason:* OCWPP policy clarification, as requested by field staff.

**MANUAL  
MAINTENANCE  
INSTRUCTIONS**

**Changed Items ...**

[FOM 722-06I](#)