

EFFECTIVE

October 1, 2015.

Subject(s)

Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, (P.L. 113-183)

On September 29, 2014, the President signed the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, (P.L. 113-183) into law. The law addresses human trafficking, limits another planned permanency living arrangement (APPLA) as a plan for youth, and reauthorizes and amends Family Connections Grants and the Adoption Incentives Program. The following policy updates were a result of the Act and were required to be implemented by October 1, 2015.

**1. FOM 722-3A,
ABSENT WITHOUT
LEGAL PERMISSION
(AWOLP)**

Notification to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

Notification to The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) must occur within 24-hours of a child's absence.

Mandatory Discussion and Human Trafficking Screening

No later than five business days after locating the youth, the supervising agency must engage in a discussion with the youth to determine the primary factors that contributed to the youth running away, how the next placement should respond to those factors, and what the youth's activities were while AWOLP, including if the youth was a possible victim of sex trafficking.

Reason: The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, P.L. 113-183

2. FOM 722-3C, OLDER YOUTH: PREPARATION, PLACEMENT, AND DISCHARGE

Case Planning Team Members for Older Youth

Beginning at age 14, youth may select up to two adults to be a part of his/her case planning team, who are not the youth's foster parent/caregiver or caseworker. The team members' role is to assist the youth in developing his/her case plan during semi-annual transition meetings, applicable family team meetings, and the 90-day discharge meeting.

Discharge Documents for Older Youth

Youth 18 years old or older, or youth who are independently leaving foster care must be provided with his/her driver's license or a state issued identification card, educational documents, health insurance information and medical records etc. at discharge.

Reason: The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, P.L. 113-183

3. FOM 722-6B, FAMILY TEAM MEETING

Semi-Annual Transition Meetings

Semi-annual transition meetings must begin at age 14.

Foster care policy currently allows youth to identify supportive individuals to participate in semi-annual transition meetings, family team meetings, and the 90-day discharge meeting. This requirement has been emphasized by adding language consistent with the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, which states that the youth may select up to two adults, who are not the foster parent/caregiver or caseworker to be a part of his/her case planning team.

Semi-annual transition meetings no longer have to be facilitated by a neutral person, unless the youth is in Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care.

The DHS-1108, Family Team Meeting Pre-Meeting Discussion Tool, is obsolete.

Reason: The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, P.L. 113-183

**4. FOM 722-7,
PERMANENCY
PLANNING - PPFWR
AND APPLA**

Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) has been eliminated as a permanency goal for youth under the age of 16. APPLA-E has been eliminated, as a subsection of APPLA.

Youth age 14-15 with a goal of APPLA must have a more appropriate goal established at the next permanency hearing.

Youth 16+ with a goal of APPLA-E must have his/her goal changed to APPLA (if it continues to be the most appropriate goal) at the next permanency hearing.

Youth pursuing APPLA may continue to reside in his/her placement with a foster family/relative caregiver or s/he may choose to live independently.

All youth with a permanency goal of Permanent Placement with a Fit and Willing Relative or Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement **must** have a supportive adult identified and must complete the Permanency Pact.

The permanency goal documents were consolidated and combined.

Reason: The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, P.L. 113-183

**5. FOM 722-11,
PRUDENT PARENT
STANDARD &
DELEGATION OF
PARENTAL
CONSENT**

Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard guidelines have been established. The prudent parent standard provides guidance to foster parents when determining whether to allow a child in foster care to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities while maintaining a child’s health, safety and best interests.

Training Plan: A webinar will be released for caseworkers, supervisors and caregivers by November 1, 2015.

Reason: The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, P.L. 113-183

6. FOM 722-15, CASE CLOSING

The closed foster care files for permanent court wards/MCI wards must be retained in the local office for one year after case closure and then forwarded to Central Office for permanent retention.

Reason: Revised Records Retention and Disposal Schedule.

**MANUAL
MAINTENANCE
INSTRUCTIONS**

Changed Items ...

[FOM 722-03A](#)

[FOM 722-03C](#)

[FOM 722-06B](#)

[FOM 722-07F](#)

[FOM 722-11](#)

[FOM 722-15](#)