

**VOLUNTARY
FOSTER CARE**

Voluntary foster care placement may be used as a service for families when the regular caregivers must be absent on a short term basis from the child care role for reasons beyond their control (e.g., hospitalization, incarceration, etc.). Voluntary foster care must not be used as an alternative/substitute for court ordered foster care placement when out-of-home care is needed for protection.

Note: Procedures to identify an American Indian child must be followed prior to a voluntary foster care placement. See NAA 200, Identification of an Indian Child.

See FOM 722-1, Foster Care-Entry Into Foster Care, Voluntary Foster Care Placement section if the child is a non-American Indian child and NAA 230, Voluntary Placement if the child is an Indian child for more information on when voluntary foster care placement is appropriate and the procedures that must be followed for a family to enter into a voluntary placement agreement.