DSCYF Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families | FAMILY SERVICES

Revision Date: 9/18/2026	Responsible Administrator: Christine Lemanski, Foster Care Program Manager
Authorized Signature: Sarah Azevedo, DFS Director	

Policy 1007 Sibling Placements & Visitation

A. POLICY

The Division of Family Services (DFS) makes every effort to place siblings together when they enter foster care. If siblings cannot be placed together, DFS ensures they have regular, meaningful visits so they can maintain their relationship.

B. PROCEDURES

1. The Foster Home Coordinator will make every effort to locate a foster family that can accommodate the sibling group. If no such home is available, the foster home coordinator will look for homes that are close in proximity to support regular sibling contact. All efforts to keep siblings together must be documented in FOCUS notes.
2. When siblings are placed apart, foster parents will be informed about the child's sibling(s) and the visitation plan. Coordinators will routinely check in with foster parents regarding their ability to support sibling visits and help resolve any barriers that may arise.
3. The caseworker is responsible for ensuring meaningful sibling visitation occurs. When appropriate, foster parents may supervise or help arrange sibling visits, but oversight and accountability remain with the caseworker. Caseworkers will notify foster parents of scheduled visits and share observations about activities and behaviors that occur during visitation.
4. Whenever possible, sibling visits should occur in natural, comfortable environments such as foster home or community settings rather than office spaces.
5. The Foster Home Coordinator will continue searching for a placement that can accommodate the sibling group unless the caseworker and Supervisor determine that joint placement is no longer in the child's best interest.

C. FOCUS

1. Coordinators will document interest or opportunities for sibling group placement in the provider record in FOCUS.

2. Caseworkers will indicate the need for sibling group placement on the Level of Care (LOC).

D. FORMS

None