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

Revision Date: 09/18/2026	Responsible Administrator: Christine Lemanski, Foster Care Services Program Manager
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Policy 1008 Minor Parent and Their Child Placements

A. POLICY

The Division of Family Services (DFS) will make every effort to allow a parenting minor to care for their child in the same foster placement. When a minor in foster care has a child, the child may remain with the minor parent under one of the following conditions:

a. The child remains in the minor parent's custody. If the minor parent is not receiving IV-E Foster Care benefits, an application for TANF will be completed for the child and special arrangements will be made for payment to the foster parents.
b. An emergency petition is filed for custody of the child.

The caseworker is responsible for assessing the minor parent's ability and willingness to care for their child. The assessment should consider the minor parent's age, maturity, and demonstrated level of responsibility.

When DFS has legal custody of both a minor parent and their child and they are not placed together, DFS will open a second treatment case under the minor parent's name and assign a separate worker to the child to ensure the child receives appropriate care and protection.

B. PROCEDURES

1. Prior to placing a minor parent in a foster care placement with their child, the caseworker will assess the minor parent's ability and willingness to care for the child.
2. If an emergency custody petition is not pursued and the infant remains in the minor parent's care within the foster home, the foster parent will provide support to the minor parent as needed. The minor parent remains responsible for the child's care. The caseworker will document the rationale for this decision in the FOCUS record.
3. If DFS obtains custody of the child and places the child in the same foster home as the minor parent, the foster parent will assume responsibility for the child's care and needs, consistent with their responsibilities for any foster child in their home.

C. FOCUS

1. If the minor parent has custody of their child, a Level of Care will be completed. The caseworker will mark “yes” to “client is a teen parent” and will indicate the number of children placed with the minor parent on the placement record. A board rate will reflect the minor parent with child rate.
2. If DFS obtains custody of minor parent’s child and the child is placed with the minor parent, a separate Level of Care (LOC) will be completed for the child. The foster parent will receive a regular board rate for the child in addition to the board rate for the minor parent.
3. The caseworker will complete the Pregnancy and Parenting Information Records in FOCUS for all minor parents in DFS custody.

4. FORMS

None