




DFS Director	Trenee Parker	
Policy Author(s)	Moira Dillon, Adoption Program Manager	

POLICY 1108 – APPLA – LONG TERM FOSTER CARE AGREEMENTS

A. POLICY

Foster care is a temporary setting. Foster children are placed in the most permanent, supportive home available.

B. PROCEDURES

1. When a youth aged 16 and older has a court approved plan of APPLA (Another Planned Permanency Living Arrangement) and the plan is for the child to stay with the foster family until age 18, the plan may be formalized by a written agreement (Long Term Foster Care Agreement (LTFCA)).
2. The written long-term foster care agreement is not a legally binding document. However, the agreement does provide the caregiver and the youth a commitment to the placement and each other.
3. If the foster family has made a commitment to permanency to a youth with an APPLA plan and all other permanency plans with this family have been explored such as adoption or guardianship, a long-term foster care agreement can solidify the commitment.
4. The caseworker shall discuss this commitment with both the youth and the foster family.
5. If all parties agree, the caseworker will ask them to sign the Long-Term Foster Care Agreement.
6. Other members of the youth’s case planning team may be part of the decision-making and may sign the agreement.
7. The primary responsibility for the day-to-day decision-making with regard to the child remains with the LTFCA identified caregiver.
8. The birth/adoptive parents retain the right to consent to marriage, medical treatment, and education. If parental rights have been terminated, the caseworker or agency representative may consent to these matters per 13 Del. C. § 1108.
9. Termination of the LTFCA can result when a child is adopted; returns home, reaches the age of majority, or when the youth leaves the caregiver’s home-when alternative placement is the only solution.
10. The caseworker must document the reason for the youth’s removal in the LOC and case progress notes in FOCUS (For Our Children’s Ultimate Success – automated information system). The caseworker will assume further planning with the youth and attempt to locate a placement that could become permanent.
11. These cases shall be considered APPLA placement cases and shall be carried by the permanency unit. Caseworkers shall revisit the long-term foster care agreement with the caregiver and youth once per year.
12. The cases will continue to be reviewed in Family Court.

POLICY 1108 – APPLA – LONG TERM FOSTER CARE AGREEMENTS	Effective Date: 11/10/21; Revised Date: {MM/DD/YY}	Page 1 of 2
---	--	-------------



DFS Director	Trenee Parker	
Policy Author(s)	Moira Dillon, Adoption Program Manager	

C. FOCUS

Caseworkers document activities in FOCUS progress notes and upload a scanned LTFCA into the case.

C. FORMS

Long Term Foster Care Agreement