

~~(vi) long term foster care] CONTINUATION IN A SPECIFIED PLACEMENT ON A PERMANENT BASIS BECAUSE OF THE CHILD'S SPECIAL NEEDS OR CIRCUMSTANCES.~~

(i) The Administration shall adopt regulations that:

(1) [for the 12-month period beginning on October 1, 1983, and for each subsequent 12-month period, establish specific goals as to the maximum number of children who will remain in foster care for more than 2 years] ESTABLISH GOALS AND SPECIFY PERMANENCY PLANNING PROCEDURES THAT:

(I) MAXIMIZE THE PROSPECT FOR REDUCING LENGTH OF STAY IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF CHILDREN; AND

(II) IMPLEMENT THE INTENT OF THIS SECTION;

(2) prohibit a local department from seeking the custody or guardianship of a child for placement in foster care solely because the child's parent or guardian lacks shelter or solely because the child's parents are financially unable to provide treatment or care for a child with a developmental disability or mental illness;

(3) specify the compelling reasons for placing a child in a local jurisdiction other than the local jurisdiction where the child's parent or guardian resides, under subsection (e)(3)(ii) of this section; [and]

(4) require the local department to make appropriate referrals to emergency shelter and other services for families with children who lack shelter;

(5) ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR INVESTIGATING AND APPROVING FOSTER HOMES; AND

(6) FOR CASES IN WHICH THE PERMANENCY PLAN RECOMMENDED BY THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OR UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COURT INCLUDES APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN AND RESCISSION OF THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT'S CUSTODY OR GUARDIANSHIP OF A CHILD:

(I) ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR INVESTIGATING AND DETERMINING THE SUITABILITY OF PROSPECTIVE RELATIVE OR NONRELATIVE GUARDIANS; AND

(II) REQUIRE THE FILING OF A REPORT WITH THE COURT AS PROVIDED IN § 3-819.2 OF THE COURTS ARTICLE.

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(c) The following individuals shall obtain a criminal history records check under this Part VI of this subtitle:

(1) an individual who is seeking to adopt a child through a local department of social services or licensed child placement agency;

(2) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS SEEKING TO BECOME A GUARDIAN THROUGH A LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES;