

(B) SHORT TERM FOSTER CARE.

THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE 24-HOUR A DAY CARE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR A CHILD WHO IS COMMITTED TO ITS CUSTODY OR GUARDIANSHIP IN A LICENSED OR APPROVED FOSTER FAMILY HOME, GROUP HOME, OR CHILD CARE INSTITUTION ON A SHORT TERM BASIS, WHILE THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT DEVELOPS AND IMPLEMENTS A PERMANENT PLAN THAT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD.

(C) PERMANENT PLAN.

IN DEVELOPING A PERMANENT PLAN THAT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF A CHILD UNDER FOSTER CARE, THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING, IN DESCENDING ORDER OF PRIORITY:

- (1) RETURNING THE CHILD TO THE CHILD'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN;
- (2) PLACING THE CHILD WITH RELATIVES;
- (3) ADOPTION;
- (4) AN INDEPENDENT LIVING ARRANGEMENT; OR
- (5) IN EXCEPTIONAL SITUATIONS AS DEFINED BY RULE OR REGULATION, LONG TERM FOSTER CARE.

(D) FOSTER CARE GOALS.

THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT, 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.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language derived without substantive change from former Article 88A, § 61(b) and (c)(1).

In subsection (b) of this section, the phrase "and supportive services" is added to conform this provision to the definition of "foster care".

Also in subsection (b) of this section, "for a child who is committed to its custody or guardianship" is new language added for clarity.

In subsection (c) of this section, the reference to a "local department" is substituted for the former reference to the Administration, to conform to practice.

Defined terms: "Administration" § 5-501  
"Foster care" § 5-501