

Article - Family Law

5-524.

The Administration shall provide child welfare services to a child and the child's parent or guardian:

(1) to assist in preventing the necessity of placing the child outside of the child's home;

(2) to reunite the child with the child's parent or guardian after the child has been placed in foster care; or

(3) if the child has been placed in foster care and cannot return to the child's parent or guardian, to develop and implement an alternative permanent plan for the child.

5-525.

(a) The Administration shall establish a program of foster care for minor children:

(1) who are placed in the custody of a local department, for a period of not more than 6 months, by a parent or legal guardian under a written agreement voluntarily entered into with the local department; or

(2) who are abused, abandoned, neglected, or dependent, if a juvenile court:

(i) has determined that continued residence in the child's home is contrary to the child's welfare; and

(ii) has committed the child to the custody or guardianship of a local department.

(b) (1) 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.

(2) (I) A CHILD MAY NOT BE COMMITTED TO THE CUSTODY OR GUARDIANSHIP OF A LOCAL DEPARTMENT AND PLACED IN FOSTER CARE SOLELY BECAUSE THE CHILD'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN LACKS SHELTER.

(II) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE MAKE APPROPRIATE REFERRALS TO EMERGENCY SHELTER SERVICES AND OTHER SERVICES FOR THE HOMELESS FAMILY WITH A CHILD WHICH LACKS SHELTER.