

(R) "VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT" MEANS A BINDING, WRITTEN AGREEMENT VOLUNTARILY ENTERED INTO BETWEEN A LOCAL DEPARTMENT AND THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A MINOR CHILD ~~WITH AN EMOTIONAL, PHYSICAL, OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY THAT PROVIDES THAT LEGAL CUSTODY DOES NOT TRANSFER TO THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT AND~~ THAT SPECIFIES, AT A MINIMUM, THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHILD AND THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN, THE CHILD, AND THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT WHILE THE CHILD IS IN PLACEMENT.

5-525.

(a) (1) The Administration shall establish a program of out-of-home placement for minor children:

[(1)] (I) who are placed in the custody of a local department, for a period of not more than ~~6 months~~ 180 DAYS, by a parent or legal guardian under a ~~written agreement voluntarily entered into with the local department;~~ VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT; [or]

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

[(i)] 1. has determined that continued residence in the child's home is contrary to the child's welfare; and

[(ii)] 2. has committed the child to the custody or guardianship of a local department; OR

~~(III) WHO ARE PLACED WITH A LOCAL DEPARTMENT UNDER A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT WHO, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE ADMINISTRATION, ARE PLACED IN AN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT BY A LOCAL DEPARTMENT UNDER A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.~~

~~(2) (I) THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT MAY NOT SEEK LEGAL CUSTODY OF A CHILD WITH AN EMOTIONAL, PHYSICAL, OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY WHO IS PLACED IN AN OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT UNDER A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT IF THE PURPOSE OF THE PLACEMENT IS TO OBTAIN TREATMENT OR CARE RELATED TO THE CHILD'S DISABILITY THAT THE PARENT IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE.~~

~~(II) A CHILD DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH MAY REMAIN IN AN OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT UNDER A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT FOR MORE THAN 6 MONTHS IF THE CHILD'S DISABILITY NECESSITATES CARE OR TREATMENT IN THE OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT FOR MORE THAN 6 MONTHS AND THE JUVENILE COURT DETERMINES, UNDER § 3-819.1 OF THE COURTS ARTICLE, THAT CONTINUATION OF THE PLACEMENT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD A LOCAL DEPARTMENT MAY NOT SEEK LEGAL CUSTODY OF A CHILD UNDER A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT IF THE CHILD HAS A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY OR A MENTAL ILLNESS AND THE PURPOSE OF THE~~