

2020 legislative bulletin language - draft

Initial foster care phone call summary

Effective November 1st, 2020, the responsible social services agency will be required to coordinate an initial call (also referred to as Comfort call) between child's parents/legal guardian and foster parents/facility staff as soon as practicable after the child arrives at foster care placement or moves to a new placement. Based on the decision made by the responsible social service agency, the call may be initiated by foster parent/facility staff or caseworker. The call shall be made no later than 72 hours after placement, but whenever possible, it should be made immediately at the time of placement. The responsible social service agency must authorize the child's participation in this initial call. If the casework determines that placing the call poses a danger to the mental or physical health of the child or foster parents/facility staff, the caseworker may delay the call until it is safe to do so and is in the best interest of the child/ren. This call establishes a partnership between child's parent/legal guardian and foster parents/facility staff and encourages ongoing information sharing that would facilitate child's adjustment to the placement, minimize the impact of separation for children/youth and parent/s or otherwise improve the quality of the child's care. The department will be issuing further guidance regarding the initial call. [2020 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 5, Section xx]

Deborah Beske Brown, CSP foster care supervisor

260D Placements

“The commissioner must confer with the Association of Minnesota Counties, the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators, other state and county agencies, Minnesota's Tribal communities, National Alliance on Mental Illness Minnesota, AspireMN, and other relevant stakeholders to make recommendations to the legislature regarding payment for the cost of treatment and care for residential treatment services, including community-based group care, for children currently served under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 260D. The recommendations must include the approximate cost of care that will no longer be eligible for federal Title IV-E reimbursement paid to the counties for children currently served through voluntary foster care placements. The recommendations must also explore the impact on youth currently served under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 260D, including access to medical assistance and nonresidential services, as well as the impact on equity for overrepresented populations in the child protection and child welfare systems in Minnesota. The commissioner must report back to the legislature by January 15, 2021.”

Kris Johnson, CSP manager