

Early Cut At Mandate Child Welfare Reform/Relief

Counties Participating

Adams
Arapahoe
Denver
Douglas
El Paso
Jefferson
La Plata
Mesa
Moffat
Park
Weld

Possible Requirements to Review

1. **North Carolina Family Assessment Scale (NCFAS)**- This assessment form is required only by rule and no data or information about the assessment or changes has ever been communicated to counties or statewide to assess families in our system.
2. **NCFAS** - The requirement for the NCFAS to be completed before the 3A can be difficult if the disposition is set before the 60 day deadline for the NCFAS.
3. **Timing of Medical & Dental Appointments** - The time frames for children entering care to have an initial medical and dental appointment scheduled was set by the State and is not a Federal time frame.
4. **New Allegations of Child Maltreatment**- If a county receives new allegations within the first 30 days of an open assessment, it must open a new referral and assessment rather than incorporating the additional information into the existing assessment.
5. **Timing of Mental Health Appointments** - An arbitrary time frame requirement is in place for mental health appointments when many of the providers cannot meet the time periods.
6. **Number of Administrative Review Division Reviews** - Title XIX requires that an administrative review each six months after initial review “**may**” be ordered by the court and every six months thereafter. The Court may serve in this capacity. This seems duplicative and unnecessary.
7. **Administrative Review Division Instrument** - ARD requires duplicative documentation of child/parent/adult functioning in TRAILS.
8. **Institutional Investigations** - Institutional investigations are conducted by counties on state facilities. This is an unfunded mandate, especially for those counties that

have several state facilities.

9. **TRAILS Printing** – A number of documents are required to be printed that are also available on TRAILS.
10. **Child Placement Agency Home Study Reviews** – County staff must go to the CPA to review home studies at the providers' locations.
11. **Certification Requirements for Workers** - The State is requiring every county to write letters certifying that our child welfare caseworkers and supervisory people have the appropriate degrees and training. They are also requiring that we submit training logs for casework and supervisory staff. In addition; the State is going to do onsite audits to verify the same information in every county starting in July 2011.
12. **Family Service Plans (FSP)** - Counties are presently required to include absent parents in our FSP by adding written objectives for them.
13. **Family Service Plans (FSP)** - It seems unnecessary to complete the Family Service Plan 4A every six months. It seems as though once would be sufficient.
14. **Family Service Plans (FSP) for Abandoned Children-** Counties are required to complete a Family Service Plan 2 Form for children who are abandoned or for whom no parent can be found.
15. **Child Protection Teams** – Child protection teams are required for every child protection case.
16. **Intra-County Transfers** - When voluntary child welfare cases move from county to county, the receiving county typically completes a new assessment on the case.
17. **Information for Mandatory Reporters** - Provide information to “certain mandatory reporters” within 30 calendar days.
18. **Foster Parent Policies and Procedures** - The state wants written policies and procedures for foster parents in addition to Volume VII, the state should develop one comprehensive plan rather than require each county to develop individual policies and procedure.
19. **Foster Care Respite** - Some very experienced foster parents have retired from full time foster care but want to help other foster parents by providing respite. The state does not make a distinction between certified foster parents and certified respite parents. The requirements are the same. This is a disincentive for foster parents who want to provide respite but do not have time to complete all of the ongoing training requirements each year.

20. **Certification of Relative Caregivers** – The requirements for relative caregivers are excessive.
21. **Foster Care Respite** –There are discrepancies in the rules for respite care.
22. **Semi-Annual Emergency Training** - The semi-annual emergency training requires certification workers and foster parents to review the foster parents’ disaster plans twice per year.
23. **Corrective Action Plans** - The state requires that corrective action plans be written any time a case is found to be out of compliance.
24. **Foster Care Home Certification** - Counties are required to keep current copies of driver’s license, insurance cards, etc. to establish that no document expires.
25. **Foster Care Home Certification** -State rule requires the counties and providers to document insurance, pet vaccinations and other documents when they expire throughout the year.
26. **Foster Home Certification** - Employees of County Departments who complete adoption home studies must be on an approved adoption home study vendor list maintained by the Colorado Department of Human Services. County workers had to sign and have notarized an Attestation of Understanding, provide proof of SAFE training, and a copy of their diploma.
27. **Foster Care Certification** - Annual attestation statements from each county regarding county-certified Foster Care provider requirements.
28. **Provisional Foster Care** - Colorado allows provisional foster care certifications for only 60 days. The Federal rule allows provisional certifications for six months.
29. **Caseworker and Foster Home Certification Worker Contacts** - State rule requires monthly contacts with children placed out-of-home. State rule requires foster care certification workers to also visit foster homes monthly.
30. **Disaster Preparedness**- Counties are required to complete semi-annual reviews of the Disaster Preparedness guide.
31. **CPR/First Aid Requirements** - CPR/First Aid requirements for respite care providers. It seems as if that the criminal checks clearance would be more of a risk factor than not having the CPR/First Aid certification.
32. **Child Safety Seats** – The rules go beyond what is required by law.
33. **Foster Care Recruitment Plan and other similar plans** - Counties have been asked to complete plans to state what they will be doing to accomplish various goals, such

as foster care recruitment and monthly contacts. Counties are now required to submit these plans to the state where they are not used for anything.

- 34. Adoption Subsidy CW-SA 4** - Counties are required to send out a CW-SA4 form every three years to subsidized adoption homes to renew the subsidy. If the family has moved, or does not return the forms, the subsidy will continue anyway and cannot be closed.
- 35. Adoption Subsidy** - Requiring the parents of Subsidized adoption children send the department the children's school information is excessive, intrusive, and does not accomplish anything.
- 36. Child Protection Assessments** - Counties are required "To assess for safety all children, caregivers and family member in the home shall be interviewed." Interviewing every child in the home after interviewing the alleged victim and learning that the report does not have any credibility can add several hours of work for a caseworker.
- 37. Sexual Abuse Assessments** - Counties have to check sex offender registries for every sexual abuse case, to see if they are on a registry and determining if they are at the same address they are registered at, to notify Law Enforcement if they are not is a waste of county time.
- 38. Cross-County Referrals**- When a referral is sent to another County, the County is required to send the same complaint to that County through Trails, fax and phone call.
- 39. Repetitive Diligent Searches** - Continuing searches are required after the child is already placed with a family member who was located through diligent search and the plan is for that family member to adopt the child or children. Diligent searches continue to be required after all known family members have been located and have decided they are unable to care for the children. They are required even after a child is placed for adoption and an adoption petition has been filed with the court.
- 40. SAFE Home Studies Annual Updates**- The state requires yearly updates but the creators of the SAFE format do not require this.
- 41. SAFE Home Studies** - The State requires that a full, complete new SAFE Home Study is due when a foster parent moves to another location in the county, not simply the portions that relate to their home, school, living arrangements but a FULL, COMPLETE study is required.
- 42. SAFE Home Studies are Redundant** - SAFE study formats have numerous redundant areas for duplicate information.
- 43. SAFE Home Studies for ICPC cases are not needed** - For interstate child welfare placements, Colorado completes a labor intensive SAFE study for all cases sent to

Colorado.

- 44. Program Area 4 or Youth in Conflict Assessment** - Counties are required to open youth in conflict cases by entering data in all of the screens in TRAILS that relate to abuse or neglect even though neither may be indicated.
- 45. Health Passport** - Counties are required to enter the information from the Health Passport into Trails. Foster parents track the appointments it is duplicating efforts to then have caseworkers type it into TRAILS.
- 46. Medication Logs for Foster Children** - Requiring foster parents to get permission from a doctor to give over the counter medications to foster children in their care is extra paperwork. If the initial physical exam does not eliminate medication, there should be no need to get a piece of paper from the doctor stating that he gives permission to give Children's Tylenol for example.
- 47. Foster Child Medical and Dental Appointments** - Doctors and dentists are required to make a statement that proves that a child actually saw them.
- 48. Medical and Dental Providers in TRAILS** - Rule requires that county caseworkers must open medical and dental providers as providers in Trails.
- 49. After Hour Protocols** - Counties must establish protocols for after hour coverage, plan for documentation by emergency response workers, review referral history, and document.
- 50. Resource Families and Rules** - Counties are required to review all rules annually with each provider.
- 51. Adoption Home Studies Vendor Lists** - Employees of County Departments who complete adoption home studies must be on an approved adoption home study vendor list maintained by the Colorado Department of Human Services. County workers had to sign and have notarized an Attestation of Understanding, provide proof of SAFE training, and a copy of their diploma.
- 52. House Bill 1451** – Now requires counties to collect data on a standard form for every staffed case.
- 53. TRAILS Mandates** – The ever-increasing mandated fields in Trails.
- 54. TRAILS Mandates**- Completing the six fields regarding child and parent functioning, discipline style, general family circumstances, etc, in the Assessment in Trails.

Agency Letters

55. 7.202.52
7.202.55
7.202.57
CW-09-40-I
CW-09-20-P
CW-09-41-I
CW-10-01-A
CW-10-02-I
CW-010-10-P
CW-10-13-P
CW-10-17-P
CW-10-18-I
CW-10-01