Placement Preservation Strategy Request

Date: Insert Date

To:   Insert Name of Director

Director, Children’s Services Bureau

Insert Address

Social Worker: Insert Name and Address

Social Worker’s Supervisor:  Insert Name and Address

Re:   Placement Preservation Strategy Required before Notice of Removal for Insert Name of Child (Date of Birth; Case Number)

The purpose of this letter is to request that the previously issued Notice of Removal, dated [Insert Date], for the above referenced child and case, be withdrawn, and a placement preservation strategy be developed and implemented as required by, and in accordance with, Welfare and Institution Code section 16010.7, CDSS All County Letter(s) 19-26, and/or 20-33. Effective January 1, 2019, a dependent child/youth’s placement cannot be changed unless there is an attempt to maintain the stability of the current placement. On [Insert Date], [Insert County Name] issued a Notice of Removal for [Insert Child’s Name (DOB)] without first developing and implementing a placement preservation strategy as required by state law.

WIC §16010.7 expresses the legislature’s intent to prevent unnecessary or abrupt placement changes by requiring that agencies make efforts to preserve the current placement prior to issuing a notice of removal, and before a change in placement can be made. WIC §16010.7(a). The placement preservation strategy must be developed with the caregiver, in consultation with the child and family team, and must be documented in the case notes. WIC §16010.7(b), (c).

CDSS issued ACL 19-26 emphasizing the importance of utilizing the child and family team to help make decisions that are in the best interest of the foster child/youth, and to provide direction and specific examples of best practice placement preservation strategies as follows:

* Initiate a strengths-based youth and family–centered CFT meeting to collaboratively develop and implement an individual plan designed to meet the youth and family’s needs;
* Apply conflict resolution practices to address conflict and concerns, and discuss solutions;
* Review of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tool to identify and discuss strengths and unmet needs to guide case planning;
* Review previous CFT meeting notes to identify any delays or barriers to implementing recommendations agreed to by the previous CFT that may impact placement stability or a youth meeting their goals;
* Actively engage or recruit CFT members such as educational and natural community supports, family members, professionals, and other individuals identified by the child/youth or family; and/or
* Make every effort to ensure the timely provision of support services, as deemed appropriate by the CFT, for specific services to support placement stability such as respite services, referral for assessment for mental health services, or wraparound.

**You can put in a sentence or two here noting specific examples, such as certain additional support services, that may be constructive to developing a plan to stabilize this specific placement.**

If, after implementing the placement preservation strategy, the social worker or placement agency finds that a placement change is necessary, the social worker or placing agency shall serve written notice at least 14 days prior to the change on:

* The dependent child’s parent or guardian.
* The dependent child’s caregiver, including resource families and foster family agencies.
* The dependent child’s attorney.
* The dependent child, if he or she is 10 years of age or older. WIC §16010.7(e)

Very truly yours,

Insert Your Names

Insert Your Address