



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

August 29, 2014

MANUAL LETTER NO. 17-E-1

ISSUED BY: Bureau of Child Welfare and Community Services
Division of Adult, Children and Family Services

SUBJECT: Voluntary Placement Agreements and Safety Plans

Summary

On July 14, 2014, the Iowa District Court issued an injunction restricting the use of Voluntary Foster Care Placement Agreements and Safety Plans in certain circumstances. The Attorney General's office is currently reviewing its legal options in this case. However, until further notice:

Voluntary Foster Care Placement Agreements

Voluntary Foster Care Placement Agreements shall not be used when:

- ◆ Signed by only one parent when the use of such agreements interferes with the custodial rights of the other parent, or
- ◆ Signed by a non-custodial parent or a parent who has not yet established any custodial rights.

Safety Plans

Safety Plans cannot be used if they:

- ◆ Remove or keep a child from the child's usual and customary home, without the consent of the custodial parent, or
- ◆ Prevent a parent from having physical contact with the child, without the consent of that parent, or
- ◆ Are with third-parties or non-parents of the child.

Please use the link below for the questions and answers posted to the Q&A – VPAs and Safety Plans log located on the Service Help Desk SharePoint:

<http://dhssp/fo/fosuhelp/Lists/QA%20%20VPAs%20and%20Safety%20Plans/AllItems.aspx?InitialTabId=Ribbon%2EListItem&VisibilityContext=WSSTabPersistence>

Effective Date

Immediately.

Additional Information

Refer questions about this manual letter to your social work administrator or to the Service Help Desk.