



**Butte County Department of
Employment & Social Services
Children’s Services Policy and Procedure
No. CSD-16-10**

Youth and NMDs Who are Missing from Foster Care

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- Purpose..... 2
- Revision 2
- Policy..... 2
- Procedure..... 2
 - Overview..... 2
 - Reporting and Noticing Requirements 3
 - Child/Youth Missing from Foster Care 3
 - NMD Missing from Foster Care..... 5
 - Due Diligent Searches to Locate Youth and NMDs 7
 - Active Efforts when an Indian Child is Missing from Foster Care 8
 - Assessing the Youth/NMD and Planning for Return to Foster Care 8
 - Documenting Absence from Placement in CWS/CMS..... 10
 - Case Management When a Youth or NMD Refuses to Return to Foster Care 11
 - Youth Refusing to Return to Foster Care 11
 - NMD Refusing to Return to Foster Care 12
 - Special Circumstances..... 13
 - Requesting Termination of Jurisdiction..... 13
 - For Youth 13
 - For NMDs..... 13
- Staff Training Requirements..... 14
- Internal Oversight and Quality Assurance 14

Associated Docs	14
Related Legal Codes.....	14

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction to Social Workers regarding required actions, notifications, documentation, and case management for youth and Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs) who run away or are otherwise missing from foster care, and to ensure compliance with all federal and state requirements.

Revision

This policy and procedure has been updated to reflect the guidance in [All County Letter \(ACL\) 25-67](#) and includes revised protocols, such as ensuring immediate notification to law enforcement and all required stakeholders when a youth becomes missing and implementing ongoing monthly coordination with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

Policy

It is the policy of the Butte County Children’s Services Division (CSD) that Social Workers comply with state and federal laws, regulations, and CDSS guidance regarding searching for, locating, and assessing youth and NMDs missing from foster care. This includes immediate notification to specified individuals and agencies, mandatory reporting to the NCMEC when required, appropriate information sharing under [WIC § 827.14](#), and ensuring the safety, well-being, and support of the youth or NMD upon return to foster care.

Procedure

Overview

1. [ACL 25-67](#) and [WIC § 16501.35\(c\)\(1\)](#) define youth missing from foster care as “when the whereabouts of a child subject to an order of foster care placement are unknown to the county child welfare agency or probation department, or when the county child welfare agency or probation department has located a child subject to an order of foster care placement in a location not approved by the court that may pose a risk to the child, taking into account the age, intelligence, mental functioning, and physical condition of the child.” For NMDs [WIC § 16501.35\(c\)\(2\)](#) clarifies that the “definition shall only apply if based on the totality of the circumstances, the county child welfare agency or probation department suspects that the nonminor dependent did not voluntarily leave foster care or is at risk of substantial harm.”
2. Reasons a youth or NMD may be absent from foster care include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Abducted by a non-family member;
 - b. Wrongful removal by a relative;
 - c. Wandering from placement/safe environment and becoming lost;
 - d. Running away from placement; and
 - e. Missing from foster care for unknown reasons.

3. When a youth or NMD is missing from foster care, the Social Worker must:
 - a. Make efforts to locate the youth or NMD;
 - b. Determine the factors that lead to the absence from foster care; and
 - c. Determine the youth or NMD's experience while absent from foster care.
4. If the youth or NMD has not returned to foster care within fourteen (14) calendar days of the absence and the placement ends, the Social Worker must arrange for the retrieve his or her belongings and store them as outlined in [CSD-15-07 CSD Storage Cage Guidelines](#). Per [ACIN I-13-17](#), items that are irreplaceable, such as photos, should be kept in perpetuity.
 - a. Consistent with placement preservation expectations set forth in [ACL 19-26](#) and [ACL 22-100](#), the Social Worker shall make diligent and documented efforts to preserve the placement throughout the fourteen (14) day absence period and prior to determining that the placement has ended. Efforts include:
 - i. Engaging the youth or NMD using developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive practices to assess safety, needs, and barriers to return;
 - ii. Consult and coordinate with the caregiver, service provider, relatives and the Child and Family Team (CFT) to identify supports or interventions that may facilitate the return to the placement;
 - iii. Explore conflict resolution strategies, temporary accommodations, or supportive services designed to stabilize the placement and prevent unnecessary disruption; and
 - iv. Inform the youth or NMD of available services and supports to promote placement stability and permanency.
 - b. All placement preservation efforts, including contacts, attempted contacts, consultations, and services offered, shall be documented in the case record. The retrieval and storage of personal belongings shall occur only after reasonable placement preservation efforts have been exhausted and the placement has been formally determined to have ended.
5. Consistent with [ACL 25-67](#), Social Workers and **Supervisors** must ensure that all procedures, search efforts, notifications, and documentation follow updated state guidance and that case actions reflect trauma-informed, youth-centered practice.

Reporting and Noticing Requirements

Child/Youth Missing from Foster Care

1. When a caregiver learns that a child/youth is missing or has run away from foster care, the caregiver must:
 - a. Immediately, and in no case later than 24 hours, notify CSD that the child/youth is missing.
 - b. Immediately contact law enforcement and file a missing person report.
 - c. Submit a written unusual incident report to CSD within seven (7) days.
2. The Social Worker staffs the situation with the **Supervisor** upon learning that the child/youth is missing from foster care.
3. The **Supervisor** emails the **Program Managers** and the **Assistant Director** to inform them that the youth is missing or has run away from foster care.

4. The Social Worker immediately, or within no more than two (2) hours, notifies law enforcement and, in the case of an Indian child, any tribal law enforcement agency for the child's tribe in learning that the child/youth is missing from foster care.
 - a. If the youth is believed to be a victim of or at risk of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), the report must occur immediately and no later than 24 hours.
 - b. If the law enforcement agency declines to take a missing person report, the Social Worker staffs the situation with the **Supervisor** and documents the attempt to make the report in CWS/CMS.
 - c. The Social Worker must ensure the missing youth is entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) by law enforcement and must continue to follow up with law enforcement if entry does not occur.
 - d. The Social Worker must maintain ongoing communication with law enforcement agencies throughout the child/youth's absence, including following up on open leads, verifying NCIC entry, and providing law enforcement with any new information obtained from search efforts.
5. The Social Worker also immediately notifies the following individuals upon learning that the child/youth is missing (**WIC § 16501.35**) and provides contact information for the case carrying Social Worker and **Supervisor**:
 - a. The child/youth's parents or Indian custodians, unless parental notification has been limited or terminated by the court.
 - b. The child/youth's legal guardians, unless guardian notification has been limited or terminated by the court.
 - c. The attorneys for the parents, legal guardians, or Indian custodians, unless notification limited or terminated by the court.
 - d. The child/youth's attorney, appointed pursuant to **WIC § 317** or **WIC § 634**.
 - e. The child/youth's Court-Appointed Special advocate (CASA), if applicable.
 - f. The court of jurisdiction.
 - g. Tribal representative, if applicable.
 - h. Any known sibling of the child/youth who is 10 years of age or older and adjudged to be a dependent child of the juvenile court. Notice to siblings shall be provided in a trauma-informed manner.
6. The Social Worker contacts the caregiver the next business day to confirm that the caregiver filed a missing person report.
7. The Social Worker completes a protective custody warrant for the child/youth no later than one (1) business day upon learning that the youth is missing from care. See **ACL 16-15**, **CSD-03-04 Protective Custody Orders** and **WIC § 340** for additional information.
8. The Social Worker also notifies Foster Care Eligibility regarding any placement change incurred because of the child/youth's absence from foster care.
9. Per **ACIN I-13-17**, if the youth has run away to another state, the Social Worker:
 - a. Contacts the out-of-state law enforcement agency and requests that they honor the California warrant, and arranges transportation for the youth's return.

- b. Contacts the Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) if the state is a member of the ICJ. ICJ procedure information can be found at <http://juvenilecompact.org/> See CSD-09-02 ICPC for additional information.
10. If the Social Worker believes that a parent or other person has abducted the child, the Social Worker reports this to the local law enforcement jurisdiction and contacts the Child Abduction Unit with the Butte County District Attorney's office.
 11. For youth believed to be or at risk of CSE involvement, the Social Worker ensures information is entered into the NCIC and to the NCMEC immediately. **Penal Code § 11166(j)(3)(b)** requires NCMEC reporting even if law enforcement declines to accept or delay the missing person report.

Make an online report by visiting the [NCMEC](#) website or by phone by calling the 24-hour hotline number 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678). Information must include the following:

- a. A photo of the missing or abducted child or youth. If the Social Worker does not have a photo of the youth, request one from the school or family.
- b. A description of the child's or youth's physical features, such as height, weight, sex, ethnicity, race, hair color, and eye color.
- c. Endangerment information, such as pregnancy status, prescription medications, suicidal tendencies, vulnerability to being sex trafficked, and other health or risk factors.
- d. Information about whether the child or youth is or may be an Indian child, as defined in **WIC § 224.1**, including the name of the child's Tribe.

NMD Missing from Foster Care

A missing NMD is defined as a Nonminor Dependent whose whereabouts are unknown to the caregiver and Child Welfare Services and who is absent from their approved placement without prior agreement or notification, or whose continued absence raises concerns regarding their safety or well-being, consistent with **ACL 25-67**. An NMD shall not be considered missing solely due to age-appropriate independence or temporary absences that are planned, communicated, and do not pose safety concerns.

1. When a caregiver learns that an NMD is missing or has run away from foster care, the caregiver must:
 - a. Immediately, and no later than 24 hours, notify CSD that the NMD is missing.
 - b. Submit a written unusual incident report to CSD within seven (7) days.
2. The Social Worker alerts the **Supervisor** upon learning that the NMD is missing from foster care.
3. The **Supervisor** emails the **Program Managers** and **Assistant Director** if there is reasonable suspicion that the NMD is not voluntarily absent from placement (suspicion the NMD is a victim of harm or foul play), or there are competency issues for the NMD.
4. The Social Worker immediately files a missing person report with law enforcement upon learning that an NMD is missing from foster care if there is reasonable suspicion that the NMD is not voluntarily absent from foster care (suspicion the NMD is a victim of harm or foul play), or there are competency

issues for the NMD. The Social Worker must maintain ongoing communication with law enforcement agencies throughout the NMD's absence, including following up on open leads, verifying NCIC entry, and providing law enforcement with any new information obtained from search efforts.

5. The Social Worker also immediately notifies and provides contact information for the case carrying Social Worker and **Supervisor**:
 - a. The NMD's parents or Indian custodians, unless parental notification has been limited or terminated by the court.
 - b. The NMD's legal guardians, unless guardian notification has been limited or terminated by the court.
 - c. The attorneys for the parents, legal guardians, or Indian custodians, unless notification limited or terminated by the court.
 - d. The NMD's attorney, appointed pursuant to **WIC § 317** or **WIC § 634**.
 - e. The NMD's CASA, if applicable.
 - f. The court of jurisdiction.
 - g. Tribal representative, if applicable.
 - h. Any known sibling of the child/youth who is 10 years of age or older and adjudged to be a dependent child of the juvenile court. Notice to siblings shall be provided in a trauma-informed manner.
6. If the NMD is suspected of being or at risk of being commercially sexually exploited, the Social Worker immediately reports to NCMEC. **Penal Code § 11166(j)(3)(b)** requires NCMEC reporting even if law enforcement declines to accept or delay the missing person report. Information must include the following, where reasonably possible:
 - a. A photo of the missing NMD.
 - b. A description of the NMD's physical features, such as height, weight, sex, ethnicity, race, hair color, and eye color.
 - c. Endangerment information, such as pregnancy status, prescription medications, suicidal tendencies, vulnerability to being sex trafficked, and other health or risk factors.
 - d. Information about whether the NMD is or may be an Indian child, as defined in **WIC § 224.1**, including the name of the child's Tribe.
7. If the NMD continues to be absent from foster care, the Court may:
 - a. Dismiss dependency after finding that the Social Worker made reasonable efforts to locate the NMD and inform him/her of the option to remain in extended foster care.
 - b. Maintain dependency in cases in which it is suspected that the NMD is not voluntarily absent from foster care and may be a victim of harm or foul play.
 - c. **ACL 25-67** clarifies that reasonable efforts to locate the NMD must continue until jurisdiction ends, including monthly search documentation and NCMEC coordination.
8. The Social Worker notifies Foster Care Eligibility regarding any placement change incurred because of the NMD's absence from foster care.
9. Social Workers do NOT file Protective Custody Warrants for NMDs as they are adults.

Due Diligent Searches to Locate Youth and NMDs

1. Per the **CDSS Manual of Policies and Procedures Division 31-320**, the Social Worker must attempt to locate youth/NMDs who are missing from foster care:
 - a. Every time that new information is provided regarding their whereabouts, and no less frequently than once per month until the youth/NMD is located, or jurisdiction is terminated.
 - b. **ACL 25-67** requires confirming law enforcement NCIC entry and maintaining communication with NCMEC when a report is filed and sharing any updated information received related to the child/youth until they are found, or jurisdiction is terminated. Updated information may include:
 - i. The location of the child or youth, or a previous recent location;
 - ii. Names of persons recently in contact with the child or youth;
 - iii. New social media handles (unique usernames) of the child or youth or recently uploaded information on existing handles; and
 - iv. Any new photos obtained from persons in contact with the child or youth or from social media.
2. Search efforts should include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Contacting significant persons in the child/NMD's life.
 - b. Requesting the caregiver and/or parents make inquiries to significant persons in the child/NMD's life and report back regarding the information obtained.
 - c. Contacting the former and current school and requesting staff contact the Social Worker if they become aware of the youth's whereabouts.
 - d. Physically checking all places/addresses where the youth/NMD is likely to be or requesting law enforcement make a welfare check.
 - e. Contacting local service providers that serve homeless youth, such as the Homeless Emergency Action Response Team (HEART) through Youth for Change and the 6th Street Center for Youth
 - i. While confidentiality laws prohibit these programs from confirming whether a youth is accessing their services unless there is a signed release of information, both agencies can take information from the Social Worker regarding the youth and encourage a youth to contact the Social Worker.
 - ii. The HEART program suggests that the Social Worker provide any alias/street name that the youth may use, and a picture of the youth, if available.
 - f. Searching social media (See **CSD-11-04 Due Diligence** for instruction regarding use of social media).
 - g. Searching public locator databases such as the California Missing Child Clearinghouse.
 - h. Contacting law enforcement.
 - i. Following up on leads about the youth/NMD's whereabouts.
 - j. Coordinating with NCMEC on leads, case updates, and recovery actions.

- k. When appropriate, the Social Worker must use the data sharing authority under **WIC § 16524.6** to obtain or provide information to other counties including recent locations, contacts, or safety concerns.
3. Under the Client's Notebook, complete the search log and document the efforts made within the *Other Search Source* section in CWS/CMS:

The screenshot shows the 'Client Search' interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Summary', 'ID', 'Demog.', 'Address', 'Names', 'Related Clients', 'ID Num', 'Juv Cr:#', and 'Search Log'. Below the tabs is a 'Client Search' section. It features a table with a '+' icon and a header 'Source'. The table contains one row with the value '1 Other Search Source'. Below the table are three input fields: 'Source' (dropdown menu with 'Other Search Source' selected), 'Date of Search' (calendar icon with '12/15/2025' selected), and 'Action Result Date' (empty dropdown). Below these fields is a checked checkbox labeled 'File Clearance'. At the bottom, there are two text areas: 'Description' and 'Results', both of which are currently empty.

4. The Social Worker also documents search efforts in each court report filed during the youth/NMD's absence from foster care.

Active Efforts when an Indian Child is Missing from Foster Care

As noted in **ACL 24-18**, when an Indian child is missing from foster care the Social Worker must:

1. Notify the Tribe immediately, or no later than 24 hours after receiving information that the child is missing from placement.
2. Collaborate with the tribal representative on efforts to locate the child.
3. Regularly update the Tribe regarding the child's status, particularly when the child has been located, to determine the most appropriate placement.
 - a. Every 7 days while the child remains missing, or
 - b. Whenever there is a significant status change (e.g., new location information, law enforcement contact, safety concerns identified).

Assessing the Youth/NMD and Planning for Return to Foster Care

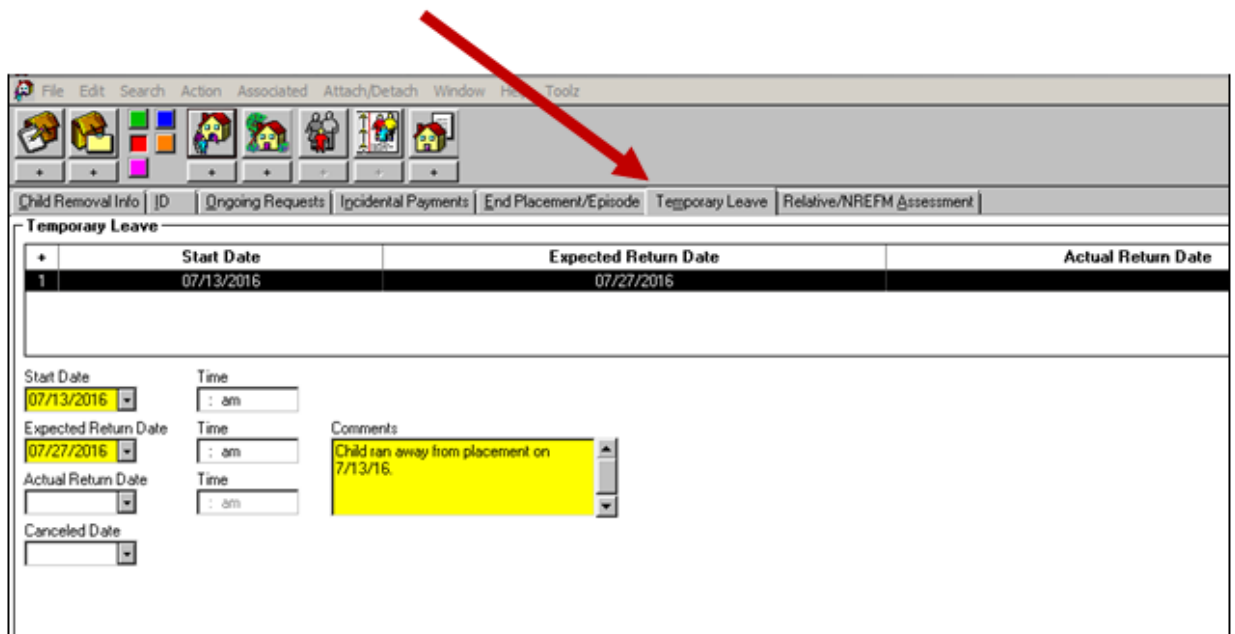
1. When the Social Worker learns that a youth/NMD has been located, the Social Worker meets with the youth/NMD as soon as possible, but in no case later than three (3) business days after the youth/NMD has returned to foster care.
2. The Social Worker ensures that the meeting occurs in a comfortable and private location and uses interviewing techniques consistent with Safety Organized and Trauma-Informed Practice.
3. The Social Worker:
 - a. Determines the primary factors that lead to the youth/NMD running away or otherwise being absent from foster care. This may include:
 - i. Discussing patterns for recurring runaway behavior such as precipitating incidents, typical time frame between episodes, places where the youth runs to, running away with a particular individual, etc.
 - ii. Discussing desired contact/visitation with biological family members.
 - b. Responds to these identified factors for subsequent placements.

- c. Determines the youth/NMD's experiences while absent from foster care, including whether the youth/NMD has been or it at risk of becoming a victim of CSE – even if unrelated to the initial missing episode.
 - d. Assesses the youth/NMD's immediate needs for:
 - i. Medical care for injuries, illness, or harm experiences while absent from placement. This may include the need for treatment for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy screening, etc.;
 - ii. Mental health services;
 - iii. Law enforcement assistance due to victimization/sexual exploitation or participation in criminal activity;
 - iv. Assistance with missing school credits, enrollment, tutoring, etc.;
 - v. Substance abuse treatment; and
 - vi. Basic needs such as clothing and hygiene items.
 - e. Assesses if the youth/NMD needs to replace vital documents that may have been lost while absent from foster care, such as the youth/NMD's birth certificate or social security card.
4. If not yet in placement at the time of the meeting, the Social Worker arranges for the youth or NMD to immediately return to foster care, consistent with placement preservation and stability principles referenced in the Overview section above both **ACL 19-26** and **ACL 22-100**.
- a. If available and appropriate, the Social Worker gives consideration to placing the youth/NMD in the same placement in which the youth/NMD resided prior to the absence from foster care.
 - b. If this is not a possibility, the Social Worker works with the youth/NMD to explore possible placement with a relative/NREFM or other placement that will best meet the youth's needs.
 - c. The Social Worker may also hold a Child and Family Team (CFT) meeting with the youth/NMD and their support network to explore placement options.
5. The Social Worker develops a safety and support plan with the youth/NMD to explore alternatives to running away from placement.
- a. This may be done at a CFT meeting.
 - b. If the youth/NMD has been involved with the HEART program or the 6th Street Center for Youth, the Social Worker may contact them to invite them to participate in developing the safety and support plan and participating in the CFT meeting.
 - c. The safety and support plan may include linking the youth to supportive resources such as:
 - i. HEART (for minors) 1-877-4-Run-Away, 530-636-4267
 - ii. 6th Street Center for Youth 530-894-8008
 - iii. National Runaway Safe line 1-800-Run-Away
 - iv. Catalyst Domestic Violence Services 1-800-895-8476
 - v. LBGTQ National Hotline 1-888-843-4564
 - vi. Stone Wall Alliance Center 530-893-3336
 - vii. School Ties 530-879-2328
 - viii. Trevor Line (emergency hotline for LGBTQ Youth) 1-866-488-7386
 - ix. Public Health 530-538-7581

- d. Social Workers may use the sample *Safety and Support Plan* attached to **ACIN I-13-17** as a guide in developing the plan with the youth. Attach a copy of the plan to court reports.
- 6. When the youth/NMD has been located and returns to foster care, the Social Worker:
 - a. Requests to recall the Protective Custody Warrant as outlined in **CSD-03-04 Protective Custody Orders** (for minors).
 - b. Contacts law enforcement to recall the missing person report and updates NCMEC immediately upon recovery.
 - c. Notifies the following that the youth/NMD has returned to foster care:
 - i. The youth's parents, unless parental rights have been terminated or there is a court order for no contact, or the NMD's parents if they are in a plan of family reunification;
 - ii. The youth/NMD's attorney;
 - iii. Tribal representative, if applicable;
 - iv. The youth/NMD's CASA, if applicable; and
 - v. Informs NMDs that voluntarily left placement that leaving placement without informing the Social Worker could result in termination from the Extended Foster Care program.

Documenting Absence from Placement in CWS/CMS

- 1. The Social Worker documents the child/NMD's absence from foster care on the Temporary Leave Page in CWS/CMS.



- 2. The Social Worker ensures that the placement episode is formally ended when a youth or NMD leaves a placement and remains absent from the placement

episode for more than fourteen (14) days consecutive calendar days, in accordance with [CSD-13-04 Placement](#) and [ACL-12-12](#).

Note: For NMDs, ending a placement due to absence does not terminate dependency jurisdiction, Extended Foster Care participation, or eligibility for benefits unless the NMD voluntarily elects to exit through the required legal and court processes. The agency shall maintain court jurisdiction, supervision, and benefits eligibility, continue outreach and placement preservation efforts, and document all actions. NMDs who voluntarily exit retain the right to re-enter the program before age twenty-one, following eligibility and re-entry procedures. Placement endings are administrative and should not be interpreted as self-discharge, noncompliance, or automatic termination.

3. Documentation must include:

- a. NCMEC report details;
- b. Immediate notifications made under [WIC § 16501.35](#);
- c. Search efforts;
- d. Documentation that NCIC entry occurred, or if it did not occur, documentation of follow-up attempts consistent with [ACL 25-67](#);
- e. Information sharing actions taken under [WIC § 827.14](#) regarding missing youth data-sharing between counties; and
- f. Consistent with [ACL 25-67](#), Social Workers and Supervisors must ensure that all procedures, search efforts, notifications, and documentation follow updated state guidance and that case actions reflect trauma-informed, youth-centered practice.

Case Management When a Youth or NMD Refuses to Return to Foster Care

Youth Refusing to Return to Foster Care

1. When a youth is located, but refuses to return to foster care, the Social Worker shall promptly meet with the youth. The youth's refusal to return shall not be construed as a voluntary discharge, placement termination, or noncompliance, and does not relieve CSD of its responsibility to maintain an open placement, provide ongoing care and supervision, and preserve the youth's eligibility for services and benefits. The refusal shall be treated as an indicator of unmet needs, safety concerns, or barriers to placement stability. Consistent with placement preservation and child-centered practice, the Social Worker shall:
 - a. Determine the primary factors for the youth's refusal to return to foster care;
 - b. Respond to those identified factors;
 - c. Assess the youth to determine he or she is a victim of or at risk of sexual exploitation;
 - d. Encourage the youth to return to placement; and
 - e. Determine if the youth is staying with an adult who could be considered for placement.
 - i. The Social Worker refers the individual to the Resource Family Approval (RFA) unit if it is determined the individual is willing to be assessed as a potential RFA caregiver.
 - ii. See [CSD-15-14 RFA and Temporary Emergency Placement](#) for additional information.

2. If the youth continues to refuse to return to foster care, the Social Worker encourages the youth to participate in a CFT meeting to identify the youth's needs and how to access needed services while out of foster care, and to develop a safety and support plan.
 - a. If the youth has accessed services through HEART or the 6th Street Center for Youth, he or she may invite a staff member to attend the CFT as a support person.
 - b. If the youth does not wish to have a CFT meeting, the Social Worker should still assess the youth's needs and how to access services while out of foster care.
3. The Social Worker should also:
 - a. Request the youth remain in contact with the Social Worker on at least a monthly basis.
 - b. Encourage the youth to continue to attend or to enroll in school.
 - c. Encourage the youth to participate in ILP services, if age eligible.
 - d. Explain to the youth that they may return to foster care at any time and explain the extended foster care program if the youth is approaching the age of majority.
 - e. Request the youth write and sign a statement documenting that they do not wish to return to foster care at this time and that they understand that they can return to foster care at any time and participate in the extended foster care program.
 - f. If the Social Workers completed a *Safety and Support Plan* as attached in **ACIN I-13-17** they would provide the youth with a copy.
 - g. All plans with the youth should be documented and attached to the court report.

NMD Refusing to Return to Foster Care

1. When an NMD is located, but states he or she does not want to return to foster care, the Social Worker meets with him or her to:
 - a. Determine the primary factors for the NMD's not wanting to return to foster care.
 - b. Respond to those identified factors.
 - c. Assess the NMD to determine he or she is a victim of or at risk of sexual exploitation.
 - d. Determine if the NMD still does not wish to return to foster care.
2. If the NMD expresses a desire to return to foster care, the Social Worker:
 - a. Discusses extended foster care placement options with the NMD; and/or
 - b. Offers to hold a CFT meeting with the NMD and his or her identified support network to identify needs and services and develop a safety or prevention plan.
3. If after engagement and placement preservation efforts, the NMD continues to state that he or she does not wish to return to a foster care placement, the Social Worker shall proceed as follows. An NMD's refusal to return shall not be treated as an automatic exit from Extended Foster Care, self-discharge, or noncompliance, and does not terminate agency responsibility, court jurisdiction,

or the NMD's eligibility for foster care services and benefits, unless and until the NMD affirmatively elects to exit the program through required legal processes.

- a. Explains that if he or she chooses to leave the Extended Foster Care program, he or she has the option of re-entering the program up until age 21 if he or she agrees to comply with the program requirements.
- b. Discusses with the NMD any needed services and how to access them as he or she transitions out of extended foster care.
- c. Completes exit paperwork with the NMD, and provides them with the exit packet (see [CSD-14-23 EFC Eligibility and Case Management](#) for additional information).
- d. Completes the termination of jurisdiction report for the termination hearing (see [CSD-14-25 EFC Court Procedures](#) for additional information).

Special Circumstances

1. The Social Worker staffs with the **Supervisor** to determine if requesting assistance for a law enforcement detention is appropriate for a youth refusing to return to foster care if:
 - a. The youth appears to be a danger to self or others;
 - b. Requires medical/psychiatric care, or is believed to be the victim of exploitation; and
 - c. The youth is developmentally delayed.
 - d. The youth's age should also be considered, particularly pre-adolescent children.

Requesting Termination of Jurisdiction

For Youth

1. Social Workers may **NOT** recommend termination of jurisdiction for a minor who has run away or is absent from foster care, unless:
 - a. The minor is deceased; or
 - b. The minor has turned 18 years old and diligent efforts have been made to locate the youth and advise him/her of the option to stay in extended foster care.
2. While the Social Worker may not recommend termination, the court may terminate jurisdiction if it finds it to be in the child's best interest based on the information in the court report. If jurisdiction is terminated for a minor, the Social Worker must recall any protective custody order prior to case closure.

For NMDs

1. The Social Worker may recommend termination of jurisdiction for an NMD who continues to be absent from foster care if:
 - a. There is no suspicion that the NMD is a victim of harm or foul play and it is believed that the NMD is voluntarily absent from foster care;
 - b. The Social Worker has made reasonable efforts to locate the NMD and inform him/her of the option to remain in extended foster care; or
 - c. The NMD has been located, does not wish to return to foster care, and asks to exit the extended foster care program.

Staff Training Requirements

CSD will provide ongoing training to Social Workers, **Supervisors**, and **Leadership** on the requirements contained in [ACL 25-67](#).

Internal Oversight and Quality Assurance

To ensure compliance with [ACL 25-67](#), the CSD Analyst Team will review cases involving missing youth and NMDs to verify that required notifications, search efforts, NCMEC and NCIC coordination, and documentation are completed within mandated timelines. Any deficiencies identified during review must be corrected immediately, and corrective actions should be documented in the case record.

Associated Docs

Policies & Procedures:

- [CSD-03-04 Protective Custody Orders](#)
- [CSD-11-04 Due Diligence](#)
- [CSD-13-04 Placement](#)
- [CSD-14-23 EFC Eligibility and Case Management](#)
- [CSD-14-25 EFC Court Procedures](#)
- [CSD-15-04 Indian Child Welfare Act \(ICWA\)](#)
- [CSD-15-07 CSD Storage Cage Guidelines](#)
- [CSD-15-14 RFA and Temporary Emergency Placement](#)
- [CSD-09-02 ICPC](#)

Resources:

[NCMEC](#), 24-hour hotline number 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)

Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ), <http://juvenilecompact.org/>

Related Legal Codes

- [ACIN I-51-23, I-31-22, I-36-21, I-50-19, I-28-19, I-59-18, I-13-17](#)
- [ACL 25-67, 25-10, 25-06, 24-18, 22-100, 19-26, 16-15, 16-85, 15-49, 12-12](#)
- [CDSS Manual of Policies and Procedures Division 31-320](#)
- [CFL 24/25-49](#)
- [Public Law 113-183, 117-348](#)
- [US Code § 5772 – Section 11292 of Title 34](#)
- [WIC § 224.1, 317, 340, 634, 827.14, 16501.35, 16501.45, 16524.6](#)
- [Penal Code § 11166](#)
- [AB 107, 161, 2108](#)
- [SB 794](#)