

<p>DCFS Strategy 1: Enhance processes and practices related to foster youth visitation with siblings, to include improving documentation of efforts, whenever the siblings are not placed together in foster care.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> CAPIT <input type="checkbox"/> CBCAP <input type="checkbox"/> PSSF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<p>Applicable Outcome Measure: Case Review Item 8, Subitems E and F¹</p>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Capped Allocation Project	
Action Steps	Implementation Date	Completion Date	Person Responsible
<p>1. Conduct investigations within 30 days of a child’s removal and placement in foster care to identify the child’s siblings, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Asking the child, in an age-appropriate manner and consistent with the child’s best interests, about their siblings. b) Reviewing the case file for information about their siblings. c) Contacting all of the child’s identified relatives. 	December 2025	October 2026	Prevention & Intake Division Director and Resource Family Approval Placement & ILP Support Services
<p>2. Train Child Welfare Workers (CWWs) during section and unit meetings and individual supervision on the Department’s existing Family Visitation policy regarding establishing and encouraging sibling visits. Additional steps, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Supervisors will support CWWs, including during supervision meetings, with the establishment and maintenance of visit plans that include sibling visits. b. CWWs will utilize Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings to support the creation and updating, as needed, of visit plans including sibling visits. c. CWWs assigned to a child’s case will collaborate with CWWs assigned to any sibling of that child around sibling visits. d. Documentation of these efforts will be made in the case management system. 	December 2025	October 2026	Prevention & Intake Division Director; Permanent Pathways & Benefit Services Division Director; Gateways to Permanency Division Director; Resource Family Approval Placement & ILP Support Services Division Director
<p>3. Develop a documentation template related to sibling contact/visitation and efforts, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The child’s visitation plan for sibling contact. 	December 2025	October 2026	Program Managers

¹ Case review item 8, Subitems E and F —Did the agency make concerted efforts to ensure that visitation between a child in foster care and his or her siblings was of sufficient frequency and quality to promote continuity in the child’s relationships with these close family members?

Department of Children and Family Services

5 Year System Improvement Plan Chart - Updated

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placement program efforts and recommendations. • Information from relative/kin and caregivers related to siblings. • Reasons why sibling contact is not in the child’s best interest and efforts to remedy those issues. 			
<p>4. Utilize quarterly case review processes to collect and analyze data from case files and interviews with staff, family members, and caregivers to assess the frequency and quality of visits between a foster child and the child’s siblings (who are also in foster care).</p>	<p>April 2026</p>	<p>October 2026</p>	<p>Prevention & Intake Division Director; Permanent Pathways & Benefit Services Division Director; Gateways to Permanency Division Director; Resource Family Approval Placement & ILP Support Services Division Director</p>