

From: [HAMMONDS, NOEMI](#)
To: [DCF DL ALL STAFF](#)
Subject: Policy Bulletin 2026-08
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Attachments: [image001.png](#)



MEMORANDUM

TO: All DCF Employees

FROM: Vincent Russo, Chief of Gov't Relations & Policy

DATE: 9/30/2026

SUBJECT: Policy Bulletin 2026 – 08

[Public Act 26-26](#), An Act Concerning Child Welfare Accountability and Transparency, passed during the 2026 session of the General Assembly. The act is described in detail in the 2026 DCF Legislative Summary, which can be found here: [2026 DCF Legislative Summary](#)

Among those provisions are several that are covered in the policy and form updates attached to this policy bulletin.

Kinship Caregivers (Sections 1 and 2)

Under the new legislation, effective October 1, the Department is required to give primary consideration to placing the child or youth with a relative or fictive kin caregiver. The act also requires DCF to provide anyone that was denied a caregiver license by the Department, to be able to request a Commissioner's appeal. The decision by the Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, is final.

To implement the legislation, [Policy 24-1-1, Foster Care Licensing](#), and Policy [25-1, Kinship Care](#), have been updated to reflect the new law. Also, the following forms have been created for our foster care division to provide

notice to a denied applicant that they have the ability to request a Commissioner's appeal.

- [Form 24-1D, Denial of Caregiver License Notification](#)
- [Form 24-1A, Request for Denial of Caregiver License Appeal](#)
- [Form 24-1R, Notification of Internal Review Results](#)

The legislation also requires the Department to notify the court when it places a child or youth with a person other than a relative or fictive kin caregiver or outside the town where the child or youth resides, as applicable, explain the reasons for the placement, and confirm that the placement serves the child's or youth's best interests.

In a Policy Bulletin 2026-07, staff was informed that the [DCF-3009](#) has been updated to conform to these requirements and should be e-filed with the court if a child is placed with non-relative/kin or outside their town of origin. The form has additionally been updated to remove the foster parent's name and address to conform to the court's expectations that forms containing such information should not be e-filed. The [DCF-2017 - OTC checklist](#) has been updated to reflect the new name for the form. Clicking on the links will bring you to the forms.

DCF Procedures when a Child Leaves the State for 14 Consecutive Days (Section 13)

This section pertains to a child who is subject of an investigation, under protective services or resides in a home with another child who meets such criteria. If a child is planning to be out of state for more than 14 consecutive days, the act requires the parent or guardian to notify DCF at least 48 hours before the child leaves CT. If DCF is notified, no further action is needed.

If DCF is not notified, DCF must attempt to contact the parent or guardian on three consecutive days to determine where the child is located. If the location is determined, DCF must:

- Contact the child welfare agency or local law enforcement where the child is located and request a well child check
- Follow up with local authority for 3 consecutive days to ensure the

check was conducted and to discuss any findings

- If the local authority refuses to conduct the check, DCF must send a staff member to visit the child in-person or conduct a virtual visit if in-person is not feasible

All activities must be documented DCF must notify all families involved with the Department about this new requirement.

To implement the legislation, [Policy 22-2-2, Intake: Child Protective Investigations](#), [Policy 23-2, In-Home Cases](#), and [Policy 23-4, Out-of-Home Placement Cases](#), have been updated to reflect the new law.

The Parent's Right to Know brochure is being updated with this notification to satisfy that requirement. In the meantime, please discuss this with your families during your regular communication with them.

New DCF Investigator in Certain Circumstances (Section 22)

The act requires DCF to begin a new investigation into reports of child abuse or neglect when a third report of abuse or neglect is accepted within a 12-month period concerning a child or a combination of children who are related or living in the same home. The investigation must be done by a different DCF employee than the one (or ones) who did the previous investigations during the 12-month period.

To implement the legislation, Policy 22-2-2, Intake: Child Protective Investigations, has been updated to reflect the new law.

Individuals on Probation or Parole who were Convicted of Certain Crimes Against Children (Section 23)

Under the act, if a person is on parole or probation for a specific crime against a child (see the Legislative Summary), the parole or probation authority must notify DCF within one week that the person is residing in a home with a minor child. Once notified, DCF must check to see if any child in

the home is under protective supervision or receiving protective services. If so, DCF must visit the home within one week of notice and assess the safety of the child. DCF will follow existing practice of visiting the child at least once a month.

If there is no DCF involvement, DCF must notify probation or parole. Probation or parole must then check on the child every three months until the parole or probationary period is completed. As mandated reporters, the probation or parole officer is required to make a Careline report if they suspect abuse or neglect of the child.

To implement the legislation, [Form 64, Probation/Parole Notification](#), was created for probate and parole to contact us. Also, policies 22-2-2, 23-2 and 23-4 include a process for staff to follow when a notice is received.

We understand that these are a lot of changes for area office staff. Please contact us with any questions.



**VINCENT RUSSO | CHIEF OF GOV'T RELATIONS
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