

## Planned Vacation and Other Travel

*Can the child I'm caring for travel with me out of the state for a vacation or other reasons?*

Yes, your child in care can accompany you on vacation and travel for other purposes, both in and out of the state. Family vacations and travel are positive experiences that will give your child in care security and a sense of belonging.

*Do I need anyone's consent to take my child in placement with me on vacation or when I'm traveling for other reasons?*

Yes, it is necessary that you consult with your child's caseworker and obtain consent if you plan to go on vacation or travel away from your home for three or more days.

You should notify the child's caseworker at least thirty days in advance of planned vacation or travel. In emergency situations, notice should be given as soon as possible after the decision to travel is made.

If you plan on staying away from your home overnight, it is also required that you notify the child's caseworker.

*What if I'm going out of state, but it is only a day trip and not for an overnight stay?*

While consent may not be necessary, it is reasonable and a matter of good practice to inform your child in care's caseworker of your plans and how you could be contacted if necessary.

*Since my child in care lives in my home as a member of my family, why is it necessary to consult the child's caseworker about vacations and travel?*

Although you are responsible for the child as a member of your resource family, the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P), by court order, is legally responsible for the child and all case activity.

This is why you are required to obtain consent from the child's caseworker in order to take family trips.

The caseworker must also notify and obtain the birth parent's consent if your child in placement is to accompany you on vacation or travel for other reasons.

Once approved, CP&P will provide the birth parent with details about your

travel plans. Notifying parents is mandatory unless parental rights have been terminated, the state has an Order of Guardianship for the child or there is a court order that prohibits the biological parents from making any decision on the behalf of the child.

If this is the case, you and the caseworker will work together on planned trips, emergencies or other issues concerning your child in care.

*Are there reasons why I wouldn't be allowed to take my child in care on vacation with me?*

Yes, there are reasons that could prevent your child in care from going on vacation or traveling with you. This is why, as stated above, it is necessary to consult with the child's caseworker about vacation/ travel plans.

CP&P is required, by court order, to review/approve all trips taken with your child in placement. There may be some compelling reasons why your child in care cannot accompany you.

Reasons include but are not limited to:

- Court ordered visitation
- Scheduled court appearances
- Scheduled therapeutic or medical treatment which cannot be postponed
- A court order which specifically prohibits the travel or otherwise contains stipulations that prevent travel



***“Family vacations and travel are positive experiences that will give your child in care a sense of belonging.”***

***What happens if my child in care cannot go on vacation or travel with me either because of a conflict with court ordered case activity or if, for my own reasons, I can't or do not intend to take the child with me?***

Whenever your child in placement cannot go on vacation or travel with you, CP&P must secure appropriate temporary care arrangements.

It is expected and preferred that your child in care accompany you on family vacations and for other travel. While CP&P is required to secure care while you are away, by planning ahead, you can be prepared for situations when your child cannot accompany you.

You can help eliminate uncertainty about providing an appropriate placement for your child in care while you travel by securing the help of a CP&P approved temporary caregiver. This can be another resource family or a member of your extended family.

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If you have any questions about  
**Planned Vacation and Other Travel**,  
please contact FAFS'  
Information Line at 800.222.0047, or visit us online at  
[www.fafsonline.org](http://www.fafsonline.org).

**All of our services are free and confidential.**

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