

**2880 - INELIGIBILITY FOR IV-E**

<b>POLICY STATEMENT</b>	There are circumstances that cause a child to no longer be IV-E eligible. Once a child loses IV-E eligibility, s/he cannot be IV-E eligible or reimbursable during the current placement episode.
<b>BASIC CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<p>A child will lose IV-E eligibility if one of the following circumstances exists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The child no longer meets age requirement;</li> <li>• DFCS no longer has custody per a court order;</li> <li>• The child is in DFCS care and responsibility under a voluntary placement agreement (VPA) and a judicial determination to the effect that continued voluntary placement is in the <i>best interests</i> of the child was not obtained within 180 days of the signed VPA;</li> <li>• The child is on a trial home visit or run away status beyond six months or the trial home visit exceeds the time frame authorized by the court.</li> </ul> <p>The court may return a child who has been in out-of-home care back into the removal home for a <i>trial visit</i> for an unspecified period of time. If the trial visit, with continuous DFCS custody, is six months or less and the child returns to out-of-home care, the child retains IV-E eligibility. If the court authorizes a time frame longer than six months, the child can retain IV-E eligibility, provided the child returns to out-of-home care at the end of the specified time frame.</p> <p>Special eligibility considerations exist when a child returns home on a trial visit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A child is never reimbursable when living in the home of a parent</li> <li>• If the six-month time frame or the court's authorized time frame is exceeded, the child loses IV-E eligibility. If the child subsequently re-enters care, the placement is considered a new episode. A new initial custody order must be obtained pertaining to the current removal including a judicial determination of <i>contrary to the welfare/best interest</i> and <i>reasonable efforts to prevent removal</i>. A new IV-E eligibility determination must be made based on the child's eligibility in the home which s/he was subsequently removed.</li> <li>• The same IV-E principles for trial home visits apply to IV-E eligible children on run away status</li> </ul>