

POLICY UPDATE

As we approach the holiday season, our staff here at DCF is so grateful for every foster family, and the key role you all play for the children in our care. We know that the holidays are busy. We wanted to provide you with a quick update on our policy transition plan as well as an overview of what to look forward to in the new year.



POLICY CHANGES

As mentioned in previous communications, we notified our foster care social workers on November 21, 2022, about the new roles they will be moving into early next year. These assignments were determined based on area office seniority and role preferences. We are happy to share that over 80% of our staff were matched to their first choice. Staffing an organization as complex as this is always a work in progress, and this transition is no different. We will continue to work across our team to ensure that all our foster families are properly supported.

Over the next month, Area Supervisors will be collaborating with staff to identify which foster homes will be assigned a new social worker at DCF. Together, the teams will develop family specific plans to minimize the impact of these transitions on you. We will send a communication to all foster caregivers in early January to clarify whether each family will continue to be assigned to their current social worker. At that time, we will also be reaching out to families to talk about any transitions that might occur. You will continue to work with your current foster care social worker through December and January.

While we have made significant changes to our staffing and policies before, we know and recognize how impactful these changes can be. As we have done with past changes of this scale, we are prioritizing the children in our care and working hard to minimize disruption. We will continue to provide you with updates like this in the new year, in advance of each step in this process. Our goal is to make sure you feel supported through the transition and even better supported as we implement our new policies.

RESOURCES

Please feel free to contact your social worker if you have any questions. To learn more about these exciting changes, please join us at:

- The Foster Family Listening Sessions on Dec. 20th
- Upcoming Foster Parent Support Group Meetings

Helpful links we have shared in the past to learn more about what we are doing: [FosterMA Connect](#) | [Mass.gov](#)

