

What Happens After the Removal?

When a child is removed from the home, there is usually court involvement regarding custody. You will need to make sure that you have the next court dates from your caseworker. It is very important that you attend these hearings because the court has the final decision regarding custody of your child.

Hearings are held at 373 South High Street on the 5th Floor. The key parties involved in these hearings are the prosecuting attorney, the Franklin County Children Services representative, the guardian ad litem (G.A.L.), and the parents of the child/children.

Who is the G.A.L.?

The G.A.L. is a neutral party who is there to represent the best interests of the child/children. This person is not affiliated with Franklin County Children Services, but is a non-partial party. They will be working with the case to make sure the interests of the child are represented in court.

What Do I Need to Do to Get My Child Returned?

Your ongoing caseworker will develop a case plan with you to get your child returned as soon as possible. By working together, this plan will take you step-by-step through the process to get your child/children returned. Children Services will help you and your family through the process and work with you to help get the services needed.

Nearly 9 out of 10 children who are removed from their home are reunited with their families.

We are Here to Help You and Your Child.

Franklin County Children Services is the agency mandated by Ohio law to provide protection and care to abused and neglected children. Services are provided to strengthen family life to enable children to remain safe in their own homes. When children cannot remain with their own families, the agency provides temporary care in foster homes or in residential facilities.



For this reason, we have developed this practical guide to provide information about the reunification process, along with answers to commonly asked questions.



525 East Mound Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 229-7000

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We are Prepared to Help You and Your Child

Franklin County Children Services realizes that the removal of a child or children from a home is difficult on a family. We want to do everything we can to support you during this time.

24-Hour Hotline:
614-229-7000

Intake & Investigation:
614-229-7100

Client Rights:
614-275-2621

Through collaboration with families and their communities, we advocate for the safety, permanency and well-being of each child we serve in a manner that honors family and culture.



Away from Home...

Back to Home.



Practical information about what happens...
When Your Child is
Placed Away From Home

Protecting Children
by Strengthening Families

What is the Visitation Procedure?

In most cases, visitation starts as supervised in one of the agency's offices. Unless the court has ordered differently, most parents receive at least one hour of visitation a week. Visitation is very important for your family and for your case plan.

If transportation is an issue, talk with your caseworker so that transportation can be arranged.

“Visitation is very important to your family and case plan.”

We request that only the parents attend visitation unless otherwise approved by the service team. If there are other family members who would like to visit, please talk with your caseworker.

- Office visitation is monitored. We ask that you do not use inappropriate language during the visit and respect other families who are visiting their children.
- If you disagree with the caseworker, or the case plan, please do not share these opinions in the presence of the children. It is not beneficial to their well-being.
- There is no physical discipline allowed during visitation.
- Drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol or weapons are not to be brought to the visit by any visiting party.

If these requests are not followed, your visit could be shortened or terminated.

Where is My Child Going?

Children Services prefers to place children with relatives when possible. However, if there is no approved relative, it is most likely that your child is going into foster care. Our foster homes are licensed; have completed training and background checks; and have either met or exceeded the standards set by the state. Most foster parents are people who have a great passion about caring for kids and have opened their homes to others. Your caseworker will be visiting your child in his/her foster home.

Can I Talk to My Child on the Phone?

Although the name and residence of foster parents is not normally released, it may be possible for the foster parent to call you or allow you to talk with your children on the phone. This will depend on your case plan.

What Should I Send with My Child?

We would ask that any medication that the child is taking be given to Children Services staff. It is important that we have everything needed to meet your child's medical needs, such as immunization records, doctor's contact information and a list of any and all allergies.

“All of our efforts are geared toward providing for your child the best that we are able.”

If your child is an infant, we would ask that you give us the baby's WIC coupons for the baby's formula. If you have medical cards, we would ask for the recipient numbers on those cards.

Remember that all of our efforts are geared toward providing for your child the best that we are able while they are in our care.

Helping Your Children Adjust

Separation from family is often just as difficult for a child as it is for a parent. Here are some recommendations to help your child:

- Bring your child or children pictures of the family so that they can have them. If you do not have any photos, ask your caseworker to take some during your next visit.
- Bring your child or children a favorite toy. This helps children have a piece of their family with them at all times.
- Let your caseworker know about any routines or traditions your family has. This will help their stay to be less difficult. If they have a favorite book, bedtime routine or religious practices that need to be observed, please let us know what they are.
- When your children ask how long they will be out of their home, talk with your caseworker about a good response so that there is consistency. Tell them that you miss them and want them home, but please do not promise them a timeline for returning. It would be very upsetting for them if that timeline is not met.

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If you have a relative who is willing and able to care for your children, please give your caseworker their contact information. Three things are required to begin the process of becoming a kinship care provider:

1. Completed Fingerprints

These must be completed at 525 East Mound Street. We are available to complete these from 8:00am until 11:00pm. Please bring photo identification when you come.

2. Background Check

Franklin County Children Services needs to know where the relative has lived – including every state, city and county. We will also need the date of birth and name of each of their children.

3. Home Study

The caseworker will need to go to the home and verify that it is safe for your child or children. Your caseworker will need to meet with everyone who lives in the home and obtain their information in order to assess the home. All relative placements are responsible for childcare and their childcare provider must also be approved by the agency.

Please remember that this process takes time as we want to be sure that your children will be placed in a safe environment.

For more information about your rights, please see page 5 in the Franklin County Children Services Client Rights Handbook or contact the agency:



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www.franklincountyohio.gov/children_services