



Clark County Family Services

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Clark County Family Services Policy

SUBJECT:

Visual Observations of a Child in Permanency Services

Effective Date	Amendment Number	Amendment Effective Date
March 26, 2026	N/A	N/A

SCOPE:

Process for conducting visual observations of a child's body during in-person contacts to monitor ongoing safety and identify any possible signs of physical abuse or neglect.

SPECIFIC LEGAL and OTHER REFERENCES:

Case Plan Facilitation - Children Policy and Procedures
Child Contacts – Assisting Assigned Specialists Practice Guidance
Children in Residential Treatment Policy and Procedures
Intake Policy and Procedures

[NAC 432B](#)

[NRS 432B.90](#)

[NRS 432.140](#)

PROGRAMS IMPACTED:

Adoption-Permanency
Adoptions Recruitment
Independent Living
Nurse Case Management
Permanency
Visitation

SUMMARY OF CHANGES:

- Supersedes Body Checks Required in Permanency Services Instructional Memorandum Amendment 1.
- Clarified ages, verbal abilities, and developmental levels of children when considering if a comprehensive visual observation would be necessary.
- Clarified ages, verbal abilities, and disclosures made that would necessitate the rearrangement or removal of a child's clothing in order to observe unexposed skin on said child.
- Added additional information regarding visual observations of a child placed at medical institutions.

DEFINITIONS:

For a list of acronyms and a glossary of terms used throughout DFS refer to Acronyms and Glossary located on DFSNet.

The following definitions were changed or added during this P&P development or provide additional context:

Visual Observation: A Specialist's assessment of a child's body using sight (previously referred to as a "body check").

FORMS, PUBLICATIONS, AND INSTRUCTIONAL (FPI) DOCUMENTS:

Visual Observations Required in Permanency Training Guide (FPI)

POLICY:

I. Visual Observations of an Assigned Child

- A. Permanency Specialists must visually observe children during routine monthly in-person child contacts in order to assess for physical harm resulting from possible abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
 - 1. Refer to Case Plan Facilitation - Children Policy and Procedures for additional information regarding quality child contacts.
- B. Further observations, beyond seeing already exposed skin, may be required when there is reasonable cause to believe the child has sustained injury, including but not limited to any of the following:
 - 1. The child presents with visible injuries.
 - 2. The child discloses the use of physical discipline or physical contact with their caregiver that results in marks or bruises presenting on their body.
 - 3. Concerns of neglect resulting in failure to thrive or malnutrition.
 - 4. Concerns of medical neglect of certain conditions.
 - 5. Concerns of self-injury and / or suicidal ideation.
 - 6. The child is placed in a long-term medical facility
- C. A child aged zero (0) up to thirty-six (36) months old must have their entire body observed, including under the diaper.
 - 1. A parent, caregiver, medical professional, or another trusted adult must be present during full body visual observations.
- D. A visual observation of a child aged thirty-six (36) months of age or older may necessitate the rearrangement or removal of an article of the child's clothing. Rearranging or removal of clothing must only occur when the Permanency Specialist has reasonable cause to believe that physical harm has occurred, or at the disclosure of physical harm by a verbal child.
 - 1. Visual observations of a child by a Permanency Specialist where clothing is rearranged or removed must take place in the presence of the parent, caregiver, medical professional, or other appropriate adult that the child trusts. Under no circumstances should the Permanency Specialist conduct a visual observation of a child where clothing has been rearranged or removed, alone or in private.
 - i. Prior to conducting the observation, the Permanency Specialist must communicate with the child in a way that they understand and establish that the child consents for this to occur.
- E. Children who are both non-verbal and require twenty-four (24) hour institutional medical care, must have a full body visual observation regardless of their age due to their increased vulnerability to abuse and neglect.
 - 1. If the child is placed in a medical institution, a medical professional must be present to conduct the visual observation.
- F. Permanency Specialist must not observe or attempt to observe any injury or other physical presentation on the genitals on any child older than thirty-six (36) months of age. Suspected allegations of injuries to the genitals, including sexual abuse, are referred to medical professionals for evaluation.
- G. Any other staff that has contact with a child receiving Permanency services are also responsible to observe a child for possible marks, bruises, scratches, or injuries.
 - 1. See the Intake Policy and Procedures for additional information regarding mandated reporters.

Abigail Frierson, Interim Director
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December 8, 2025

Approved Date