



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Charlie Crist
Governor

George H. Sheldon
Secretary

DATE: October 29, 2009
TO: Regional Directors
THROUGH: Pete Digre, Assistant Secretary for Operations *memoranda*
David L. Fairbanks, Assistant Secretary for Programs *Dr. D. Fairbanks*
FROM: *Gay Fugate for* Alan Abramowitz, State Director, Office of Family Safety
SUBJECT: Home for the Holidays 2009
Requested Action: Due 1/31/10

PURPOSE: This memorandum provides information on the Home for the Holidays initiative for the 2009 holiday season.

BACKGROUND: The annual Home for the Holidays project that began in 2007 has been very successful in arranging for children in licensed out-of-home care to visit with relatives or other friends during the period from Thanksgiving through the start of school in January. In addition, the program has served to expedite the permanent placement and reunification for children both in-state and out-of-state.

As a result of the combined efforts of the courts, community based care agencies, Children's Legal Services, the Guardian ad Litem Program, and other stakeholders, the process of facilitating holiday visits evolved from a time-shortened effort in 2007 to a more deliberate and organized event in 2008. Because of the success and experience of the past two years, the Department will continue with Home for the Holidays again this year, but, unlike the past two years, there will not be a requirement for detailed ongoing reporting during the holiday season. Rather, the expectation is that all reasonable (and in justifiable cases, extraordinary) efforts will be made so that children in out-of-home care may spend their holidays in familiar surroundings.

ACTION REQUIRED: It is expected that by January 31, 2010, each Community Based Care agency, working in conjunction with the appropriate CLS Managing Attorney, will provide to Stephen Pennypacker, ICPC Compact Administrator, a cumulative number of out-of-home children in licensed care visiting family or friends for the holidays and/or placed as follows:

Number of children visiting in-state:

Number of children visiting out-of-state:

1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

Number of children reunified or placed permanently in state:

Number of children reunified or placed permanently out of state:

Thank you for your past efforts and for the efforts you will be making as the holiday season approaches.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions about this initiative, please contact Stephen Pennypacker, ICPC Compact Administrator, at stephen_pennypacker@dcf.state.fl.us or (850) 922-0743.

cc: Circuit Administrators
CBC CEO's
Rose Patterson, OSCA
Circuit PIO's,
Mary Cagle, CLS Director