Statement of Consideration (SOC)

PPTL 20-27 SOP 4.9 Initial Placement Consideration and SOP 4.48 Discharge from a PCP or PCC Placement. The following comments were received in response to SOP drafts sent for field review. Thanks to those who reviewed and commented. Comments about typographical and grammatical errors are excluded; these errors have been corrected as appropriate

**SOP 4.9**

1. **Comment:** I have reviewed these SOP proposed changes, the only suggestion or area I would like to see more clear direction for staff would be around sibling visitations.  Specifically, when siblings are separated because of one of them needing a higher level of care, and how to transition them back together as a unit, either in the home of the birth family or into a foster family.  Sibling visits need to be addressed in different situations, such the parents are AWOL and not showing visits, we should still be getting the children together if they are in different homes, or if they are divided because of the mental health needs of them requires PCC placement. I would like for SOP to address that visitation between siblings continues, with the input of the providers as to where and as to the length of the visits

**Response:** Sibling visitation is addressed in [SOP 4.18 Ongoing Case Planning](https://manuals.sp.chfs.ky.gov/chapter4/11/Pages/418OngoingCasePlanning.aspx) and [SOP 4.19 Visitation Agreement](https://manuals.sp.chfs.ky.gov/chapter4/11/Pages/419VisitationAgreement.aspx). [SOP 4.35 Reunification, Including Extended Visitation, Case Planning and Transitional Supports to Families and Children](https://manuals.sp.chfs.ky.gov/chapter4/13/Pages/435Reunification%2CIncludingExtendedVisitation%2CCasePlanningandTransitionalSupportstoFamilies.aspx) discusses transitions in detail, which would apply to reunifying siblings.

**SOP 4.48**

1. **Comment:** In regards to SOP 4.48 re: the 10 Day Notice (**The Cabinet must provide a ten (10) day verbal and written notice prior to a new placement or reunification occurring unless the Cabinet determines that the child is in imminent danger or the court orders placement sooner).**

Staff feel like Foster Parents need to be informed that the child’s goal is Return to Parent and we are working toward that.  Staff feel that the child does need to be prepared for that transition but it should be an ongoing process and continuous collaboration between the Foster Parent/Worker. Staff feel that if a 10 day written notice is given some foster parent’s may show that to the child and could cause a disruption (if the child wants to go sooner or if the child doesn’t end up getting returned). Staff feel if there is ongoing engagement between the worker/Foster Parent the written noticed is not needed.

**Response:** The statements surrounding engagement and collaboration with the foster parent above is best practice. The ten (10) day notice is also a requirement in the PCC/PCP agreement.

Unfortunately, there are many situations when families do not receive notice that a child is moving and they are asked to have child(ren) ready the same day or the next day with no preparation of the child. Proper notice should be given to prepare the child and family for the transition. This is a timeline that must be established to ensure this preparation.