



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
CHILDREN'S ADMINISTRATION – FIELD OPERATIONS
1115 Washington St. SE OB2 • PO Box 45710 • Olympia WA 98504-5710

March 22, 2013

TO: Regional Administrators
Deputy Regional Administrators
DCFS Area Administrators
Children's Administration All Staff

FROM: Randy Hart, Deputy Assistant Secretary
Children's Administration

SUBJECT: UPDATE TO VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT (VPA) POLICY

Effective March 25, 2013, Children's Administration will increase the number of days a Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA) can be in effect from 30 calendar days to a maximum of **90** calendar days. A FamLink report will be developed to help ensure VPA's do not exceed 90 days. Approval for use of the VPA will be at the supervisor level.

A Voluntary Placement Agreement safely supports a time-limited plan for a short-term removal and placement in out of home care for a child who cannot remain safely in the parents' or legal guardian's home. VPA's are appropriate in situations when a service plan can be completed within the 90 day time frame. VPA's are not used to delay the filing of a dependency petition when longer term services are needed to address the safety threats to the child.

The updated VPA policy and supporting materials may be accessed on the CA Intranet. The translations for the updated VPA form will be completed in the next few weeks. Until, then the PDF versions of all available languages will continue to be available.

If you have further questions about the VPA policy changes contact CAPolicy@dshs.wa.gov.