

# CHAPTER 12: Placement Options

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PLEASE READ THE MATERIAL PRIOR TO ATTENDING THE SESSION.

### Homework for Session:

Read chapter 12; answer and submit chapter 12 review questions.

### Class Objectives:

- Describe the concept of “least restrictive environment.”
- Understand the different placement options.
- Recognize ways to keep yourself safe.

### Unit 1

Family First

12-2

### Unit 2

Least Restrictive Placement

12-3

### Unit 3

Placements

12-4

### Unit 4

Safety

12-6

## “ReMoved”

A powerful short film that takes you on the emotional journey of a foster child.



[www.prokids.org/removed](http://www.prokids.org/removed)

# CHAPTER 12: Placement Options

---

## Unit 1: Family First

ProKids believes that children develop best in the home of their biological parents. We believe that this is the best placement for children. Unfortunately, this is not always possible. If a child's biological parents are unsafe or unavailable we turn to relatives or family friends to provide the connection to family that children deserve. If there are none willing or appropriate to assume the care of children we turn to an adoptive home for permanence. Our last possible option for children is to be raised in foster care until they are an adult. Often this plan will lead them to an independent living placement prior to their 18th birthday. In summary, ProKids believes CASA volunteers should pursue permanency for children with their biological parents, then relatives, then family friends, then adoptive parents, then, as a last resort, a long-term foster placement.



# CHAPTER 12: Placement Options

## Unit 2: Least Restrictive Placement

Ohio Administrative Code outlines the rules by which Hamilton County Job & Family Services must secure placement for children. For each placement the HCJFS must show why a lesser restrictive placement was not made. The order of lesser to more restrictive placement is outlined below.

### Ohio Administrative Code

#### 5101:2-42-05 Selection of a placement setting.

(A) When a child cannot remain in his own home, the PCSA (Public Child Services Agency) or PCPA (Public Child Placing Agency) shall attempt to locate a suitable relative to assume temporary or legal custody of the child; or, if a suitable relative is not available to assume custody, the PCSA or PCPA shall attempt to locate a suitable non-relative to assume temporary custody, legal custody or guardianship.

(B) When the court places a child in the temporary custody of the PCSA or PCPA, the PCSA or PCPA shall select a substitute care placement setting which is consistent with the best interest and special needs of the child and which is also:

- (1) The least restrictive, most family-like setting available which meets the child's emotional and physical needs;
- (2) In close proximity to the home from which the child was removed or the home in which the child will be permanently placed;
- (3) In close proximity to the school in which the child was enrolled prior to placement;
- (4) Designed to enhance the likelihood of reunification, when appropriate; and
- (5) Able to protect the child and provide a safe environment for the child.

(C) With the exception of placements with suitable relatives or suitable non relatives approved by the PCSA or PCPA in accordance with rule 5101:2-42-18 of the Administrative Code, the PCSA or PCPA shall only place children in substitute care settings that are certified by a state agency having certifying authority. The following allowable settings are listed in order from least restrictive to most restrictive:

- (1) The home of a suitable relative as defined in rule 5101:2-1-01 of the Administrative Code,
- (2) The home of a suitable non-relative as defined in rule 5101:2-1-01 of the Administrative Code,
- (3) A foster home,
- (4) Agency independent living, as appropriate for the child,
- (5) A group home,
- (6) A maternity home,
- (7) An emergency shelter care facility,
- (8) A children's residential center, or
- (9) Any medical or educational facility.

*Ohio Administrative Code 2014*

# CHAPTER 12: Placement Options

---

## Unit 3: Placements

### Biological Home:

Children who are placed in their biological home are most likely in the custody of their parent(s) and under the legal status of Protective Supervision. Protective Supervision allows the court to make orders regarding the care of the children. A Hamilton County Job and Family Services (HCJFS) ongoing social worker is required to monitor the case. **Currently, 15% of ProKids children are placed with their biological parents.**

### Relative Home / Family Friend Home:

Children can be placed with their relatives/family friends either in the custody of HCJFS or in the custody of the relative/family friend. **Currently, 38% of ProKids children are placed with a relative or family friend.**

Before children can be placed with a relative/family friend, HCJFS must complete a home study done by the HCJFS caseworker. A home study includes a:

- Criminal records check of all household members (18 years or older)
- HCJFS records check of all household members (18 years or older)
- Personal interview of all household members, and
- Home inspection.

### Foster Home

A Foster Home is a private residence in which children are placed apart from their parents, guardian, or legal custodian. **Currently 28% of ProKids children are placed in a foster home.**

The foster caregiver is reimbursed for providing the children care and supervision, twenty-four hours a day. Some homes are considered Therapeutic Foster Homes as they are specifically trained to accept children with more trauma, special needs, and/or behavioral issues. Foster Homes are licensed and monitored by independent agencies. These agencies are called Networks. Some examples of Foster Home Networks are SAFY, Presley Ridge, Beech Acres and Lighthouse. Each network will have a social worker assigned to the children in their placement. This social worker will work together with the HCJFS caseworker in monitoring the placement and securing services for the children and parents. The foster parents or the worker for the network should provide transportation to services. Children placed in a foster home must be in the custody of HCJFS.

# CHAPTER 12: Placement Options

---

## Independent Living

Independent living refers to a program in which a child age sixteen years or older is partially or fully responsible for his individual living environment. **Currently 23% of ProKids children are placed in Independent Living.** A private agency, not HCJFS, provides services and activities to assist in the transition from public care to independent living. The teenager resides in his/her own apartment or in a semi-independent apartment and is responsible for going to school and working. They are responsible for many of their household expenses. The private agency provides a social worker to assist the teenager with services. This social worker will work together with the HCJFS caseworker.

## Adoptive Home

A home licensed to adopt a child and provide a permanent home. **Currently 1% of ProKids children are in an adoptive home.** Adoptive homes have additional licensing requirements than foster homes. Adoptive homes hold their license with a private agency. A special category of adoptive homes are called resource homes or resource placements. Resource homes are homes that hold a dual license for foster care as well as adoptive home. These placements are great for children who transition from foster care to adoption in that they do not have to change placements with their legal status.

## Group Home

A private facility that provides placement services for up to 10 children in a home like setting. **Currently 2% of ProKids children are placed in a group home.** Group homes typically look from the outside like regular family residences. However, they have licensed staff that work on a shift basis and provide the care, support and guidance for the children in the home. Stays in such homes may be short term and transitional or long term. Group homes are good for children who are unable to live in an intimate family setting. Group home staff has varying interactions with the children in the home.

## Residential Treatment

Residential treatment is a secure facility where children with serious needs are placed. **Currently 6% of ProKids children are placed in residential treatment.** Residential treatment facilities are usually locked placements for children with specific needs for psychiatric care, substance abuse treatment or severe behavioral problems. There are few residential treatment facilities in Hamilton County so often these children are placed out of county and sometimes, out of state.

# CHAPTER 12: Placement Options

---

## Unit 4: Safety

### CASA Safety

While very few episodes of violence or danger have occurred over the years to our CASA volunteers, we at ProKids believe safety is a shared responsibility. It is imperative to have these trainings and conversations to keep everyone informed of the risks.

### Safety Tips on Home Visits

1. Think ahead. Know the situation and know where you're going in order to look confident.
2. Tell someone where you'll be, how long you'll be there and when you expect to return. If plans change, call and let that person know.
3. Dress to protect yourself. Wear shoes and clothes that make it easy for you to move quickly. Avoid wearing expensive jewelry. Dress professionally but comfortably.
4. Carry a minimal amount of cash.
5. Conduct visits during daylight hours.
6. Maintain locked car doors. Avoid leaving items visible on the car seats during visits.
7. Become aware of the layout of the site you are visiting. Keep the door in sight during the visit. Identify locations where other people may be present and possible escape routes.
8. Have knowledge of the activities of the neighborhood in advance and avoid visits when the risk may be higher such as times of increased drug or alcohol use.
9. Know the location of the local police or fire department so that driving there for safety is an option.
10. Avoid areas with poor visibility by others such as alleys or isolated buildings. If necessary, ask family members to come out to meet you.
11. Talk with your CASA Manager before visits.

## CHAPTER 12: Placement Options

---

12. If concerned about safety, request visits in a more secure environment such as ProKids or HCJFS.

13. Report any incident of concern or violence to your CASA Manager (or the police as appropriate).

Keep in mind that the definition of violence includes abuse and threats as well as assaults. These threatening behaviors include shouting, verbal threats, invasion of personal space, damage to nearby objects, unwanted physical contact, harassment, stalking or telephone calls. Any of these behaviors should be reported immediately to your CASA Manager.

