

**AFCARS (Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System)
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) of 2/9/2015
Summary of Changes Proposed**

- Shortened Timelines
 - Removal Transaction Date must be within 30 days of removal (currently 60 days)
 - Discharge Transaction Date must be within 30 days of discharge/exit (currently 60 days)
 - File transmission to federal level must be within 30 days of end of reporting period (currently 45 days)
- Send history of *all* removals, and *every* placement within each removal (rather than counts)
 - Helps with longitudinal analysis
- Send history of *all* placement reviews (rather than just most recent)
- Moved many Adoptions data elements into Foster Care file
(Send every 6 months instead of once at finalization)
- Send Finalized Adoptions and Kinship Guardianships every 6 months, if IV-E assistance
(rather than once at finalization)
- Data Fields Removed:
 - Marital status of mother at the time of the child's birth
 - Foster Care fields proposed for addition in the 2008 NPRM:
 - Family record numbers
 - Conditions at time of permanency plan, annually, and at exit (but Conditions at removal expanded)
 - Marital status of parents at time of removal
 - Family composition, with roles, at time of removal
 - Household composition at removal and environment at removal combined
 - Single discharge reason for relative and non-relative legal guardianships
 - Adoptions: "Special Needs" status and details of basis of special needs (e.g. type of disability)
- Removed Summary Records at beginning of Foster Care and Adoptions files (number of children by age)
- Many new Foster Care fields (approximately 120 total):
 - Was child born in the United States?
 - Was first parent or legal guardian born in the United States?
 - Was second parent or legal guardian born in the United States?
 - Date of judicial finding of abuse or neglect [CHIPS in Minnesota]
 - Date(s) of Petitions for Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)
 - Environment at removal (with history):
 - Parent/Relative/Legal guardian/Justice facility/Medical or mental health facility/Other
 - Added Conditions at time of removal: Psychological or emotional abuse; Medical neglect; Domestic violence; Abandonment; Failure to return; Prenatal alcohol exposure; Prenatal drug exposure; Inadequate access to mental health services; Inadequate access to medical services; Caretaker's significant physical or emotional impairment; Caretaker's significant cognitive impairment; Runaway; Whereabouts unknown; Child requested placement
 - Child's Health Assessment - Date; Timely?; Must state if no exam or assessment conducted
 - Child Health, Behavioral or Mental Health Conditions:
 - Must state for each if it is Existing condition, Previous condition, or Does not apply

- Many new Conditions added: Anxiety disorder, Childhood disorder, Learning disability, Substance use related disorder, developmental disability, Other mental/emotional disorder; *Pregnant*
- History of prior adoptions: dates, types and jurisdictions/agencies (currently just yes/no and at what age)
- History of prior guardianships: dates, types and jurisdictions/agencies
- Minor parent's number of children; number of children living with the minor parent
 - (First number is total either fathered or borne by the youth - whether or not living with the minor parent)
- Additional financial/medical assistance questions:
 - Title XXI SCHIP (Minnesota Care?)
 - State/Tribal foster care assistance
 - State/Tribal adoption assistance
- Sex Trafficking Victim (required by federal statute)
 - Prior to care? During foster care?
 - Reported to law enforcement?
 - Date reported to law enforcement
- Many Education elements added: School enrollment; Highest educational level *completed*; educational stability elements; Special education plan type (IEP/IFSP); IDEA (early intervention and special education) qualifying disability or area of concern; (Educational stability elements required by federal statute)
 - Many additional details on Placement Setting: Foster home licensed? Therapeutic foster family home? Shelter care foster family home? Kin foster family home? Other living arrangements: Group home family operated; Group home staff operated; Group home shelter care; Residential treatment center; Child care institution shelter care; Juvenile justice facility; Medical or rehabilitative facility; Psychiatric hospital; Private agency arrangement? Living arrangement location – out of country; Name of jurisdiction or country where child is living; Services provided in other living arrangements: Specialized education; Treatment; Counseling; Other
- Additional sources of FFP in living arrangement: IV-E GAP; IV-B; SSBG (Title XX); Chafee FC Indep.; Other FFP
- Siblings:
 - Number of siblings in out-of-home care
 - Siblings placed together in out-of-home care (Send encrypted SWNDX IDs)
 - Siblings in out-of-home care not living with child (Send encrypted SWNDX IDs)
 - Number of siblings in adoption or legal guardianship
 - Siblings in adoptive/guardianship placement living with child (Send encrypted SWNDX IDs)
 - Siblings in adoptive/guardianship placement not living with child (Send encrypted SWNDX IDs)
- Child's Relationship to Foster Parents expanded: Maternal grandparents, Paternal grandparents, Other maternal relatives, Other paternal relatives, Siblings, Non-relatives, Kin
- Child's Relationship to Adoptive Parents or Guardians expanded: Maternal grandparents, Paternal grandparents, Other maternal relatives, Other paternal relatives, Siblings, Non-relatives, Kin
- Permanency Plan(s) – with dates (history); Concurrent permanency plan(s); Reasons for perm.plan change
- Date(s) of Permanency hearings – (history)
- Juvenile justice: Status offender/Adjudicated delinquent/Both/Not applicable
- Caseworker visits: Date(s) – (history); Location; Purpose; Alone with child?
- Transition Plan: Yes/No/NA; Date; Housing; Health insurance; Health care trt; Educ.; Mentoring; Employment
- Transfer to another agency: State IV-E/Tribal IV-E/Indian tribal agcy-non IV-E/Juv. Just./MH/Oth public/ Private
- New Adoptions/Guardianship fields:
 - Non-recurring costs paid, and amount
 - Siblings: number, # in out-of-home care (Send encrypted IDs), # in adoption or guardianship (Send enc. IDs)
 - Assistance Agreement termination date