

**Date** – July 1, 2024

**Manual** - Child and Family Services Manual, Chapter A: Practice Foundations, Section 2, Family Engagement

**Transmittal - #**

The purpose of this transmittal is to provide new, revised, and clarified guidance for Section 2: *Family Engagement of Chapter A: Practice Foundations* of the Child and Family Services Manual. Unless otherwise stated, the provisions included in this transmittal are effective July 2024.

Changes to the manual incorporate the legislative changes that impact requirements for Family Partnership Meetings.

This transmittal and manual are available on FUSION at <https://fusion.dss.virginia.gov/dfs/DFS-Home/Resource-Family/Resource-Family-Guidance> and on the public site for VDSS at <https://dss.virginia.gov/about/manuals.cgi>

Changes to the manual are as follows:

<b>Section(s) Changed</b>	<b>Significant Changes</b>	<b>Reason for Change</b>
<b>Section 2: Family Engagement</b>		
2.7.4 Critical decision points, p. 27	<p>This section was updated to reflect that Family Partnership Meetings (FPMs) are required prior to the creation, extension, or termination of a Parental Child Safety Placement Agreement (PCSPA).</p> <p>This section clarifies that the FPM held prior to the creation of a PCSPA is part of the “removal, emergency or planned” critical decision-point and that FPMs held to extend or terminate the PCSPA are a part of the “very high or high risk” decision-point.</p> <p>Additional information was added to this section as to topics that should be covered in high risk/very high risk and emergency/planned removal FPMs that address the PCSPA.</p>	This revision was necessary to bring guidance into compliance with Senate Bill 39.
2.7.5 FPM Participants, p. 32	This section was updated to reflect that parental participation is required for any FPM whose goal is the creation or extension of a PCSPA.	This revision was necessary to bring guidance into compliance with Senate Bill 39.

2.7.7.9 Preparation of FPM attendees, p. 40	This section was updated to reflect that the LDSS should inform parents and relatives of caregiving options ahead of the FPM.	This revision was added to support best practice in implementing the FPMs required by SB39.
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Questions about this transmittal should be directed to the Regional Resource Family Consultants:

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