

Module 2: District Child Protection Unit

Session 1: Introduction to DCPU and its Structure

Duration: 3:21 min

Lest us learn more about some essential facts on Foster Care

- As per Model Guidelines for Foster Care 2016, district administration through the DCPU plays a very critical role in the implementation of Foster Care and ensuring that children are safe in the foster families
- DCPU shall be the nodal authority for implementing the Foster Care Programme in a district
- Children in need of care and protection who are living in community may also be considered for placement in Foster Care based on the child study report prepared by the DCPU
- DCPU shall prepare a Home Study Report of the foster family and submit to the CWC before the Committee places the child in Foster Care
- Create awareness on the Foster Care Programme
- Recruit families from the community who are willing to take on the responsibility of foster Care and maintain a list of identified foster families with addresses
- Select foster families based on criteria approved by the concerned state department and build their capacities
- Foster Care can be short term (less than one year) or long term (more than one year- extendable until the child attains the age of 18 years)

How to select foster family?

- i. Both the spouses must be Indian citizens
- ii. Both the spouses must be willing to foster the same child
- iii. Both the spouses must be above the age of 35 years and must be in good physical, emotional and mental health
- iv. Ordinarily the foster family should have an income with which they are able to meet the needs of the child
- v. Medical reports of all the members of the foster family residing in the premises should be obtained including reports for Human Immuno Deficiency Virus (HIV), Tuberculosis (TB) and Hepatitis B etc. to determine that they are medically fit
- vi. The foster family should have adequate space and basic facilities.

DCPU can also place a group of children in foster care settings. How to select a group foster care settings?

- i. Registration of the group setting under the Act;
- ii. Recognition as a fit facility by Committee
- iii. Existence of child protection policy

iv. Sufficient space and proper amenities for children.

Additionally DCPU will

- Maintain a record of each child in Foster Care
- Prepare a home study report of a prospective foster family after at least two home visits
- Interviews with the foster parents and others in the household
- Maintain detailed case history of each child in an appropriate prescribed format under the implementation manual of the ICPS
- Provide counselling to the family and to the child in order to prepare them for placement as well as deal with ongoing problems
- Outreach worker will visit each family at least once a week for the first month followed by monthly visits of which records will be made
- Maintain quarterly supervision reports for each child and they should be treated as confidential
- Monitor and evaluate the programme