



DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Division of Developmental Disabilities*



## Out-of-Home Placement for Children





Children generally develop best when living at home with their family. Sometimes a parent may feel the needs of a child cannot be fully met in the family home. If that happens, you may want to meet with your planning team to talk about services to support your child to continue living in your home. If your child's needs still cannot be met at home, the planning team may consider exploring options outside the family home. It is important to carefully consider your child's needs when deciding about where your child should live.

## **What does the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) consider when you ask for an out-of-home placement?**

- Your child must be eligible for Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS).
- The services your child needs cannot be provided in your home.

## **What will I need to do if an out-of-home placement is approved?**

- You will visit and approve the place your child will live.
- You may want to check on your child's eligibility for Social Security benefits to assist in paying room and board costs.
- You will provide for your child's personal needs, such as clothing, haircuts, personal spending money and other personal items.

## **What services will my child receive?**

Your child will receive habilitation, which are services that may assist your child to keep, learn or improve skills and functioning for daily living.

## Who pays for an out-of-home placement?

- Habilitation is a covered service. Room and board is not a covered service. Covered services are paid for by Medicaid. Room and board is paid for by DDD and the family.
- You may be responsible to pay up to 70% of the cost of room and board. If your child receives Social Security benefits or other income, this can be used to pay for that cost. If you are required to pay, you will receive a letter explaining your responsibility.

## How do I stay involved with my child during an out-of-home placement?

Here are some suggestions parents have found helpful:

- Schedule visits on a regular basis. Talk to your child's provider about dropping in.
- Call your child often.
- Take your child home for weekends, important family events and holidays.
- Make sure other people important in your child's life stay in touch with your child.
- Attend planning meetings, school meetings and medical appointments.

## Where can my child live?

The place your child can live will depend on your child's needs. The types of settings that are available include:



### Developmental Homes

- This setting has a “family-like atmosphere” by a licensed provider.
- The provider may have other family members living in the home, including other children and extended family members.
- The provider will meet your child's needs on a 24-hour basis and support your child to learn skills.
- Some providers are skilled medical professionals who can care for children with medical needs.
- The provider may accept up to two other children from DDD to live in the home.
- Your child will attend school during the day.



### Group Homes

- This is a licensed setting with staff who work in shifts.
- The staff will meet your child's needs on a 24-hour basis and support your child to learn skills.

- The group home may accept three to four other children from DDD to live in the home. No more than six children may live in the home.
- DDD will decide how many staff are needed by the number of children and their needs.
- Your child will attend school during the day.



## **Medical Group Homes**

- This is a licensed setting with staff who work in shifts. Some staff are skilled medical staff.
- The staff will meet your child's medical needs on a 24-hour basis and support your child to learn skills.
- The group home may accept up to six children from DDD to live in the home.
- DDD will decide how many staff are needed by the number of children and their needs.
- Your child will attend school during the day.

Deciding on an out-of-home placement for your child can be a difficult time for a parent.

If you would like to discuss this, contact:

**Raising Special Kids** at (800) 237-3007 or **Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona** at (877) 365-7220.

Both agencies provide family support services at no charge.

You may also contact your Support Coordinator.

## Notes:

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