



GAUTENG PROVINCE

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT CHILD PROTECTION ORGANISATIONS GAUTENG PROVINCE

INSTITUTIONAL REALIGNMENT PROJECT (IRP) UPDATES: CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES FOR 2024/2025 FY

This Memo serves as an update on the Gauteng Department of Social Development's Institutional Realignment Project (IRP) objectives that would inform the Department's partnership with Child Protection Organisations in the 2024/2025 financial year.

As a reminder, in line with the advert requesting Business Plans for 2024/2025, the Department's focus would be on intensifying its Child Care and Protection services with emphasis on Prevention, Awareness and Early Intervention Programmes (PEIP) aimed at:-

- Addressing the scourge of Child Abuse
- Child Exploitation i.e., Child Trafficking
- Teenage Pregnancy
- Online child safety
- Parenting programmes (Teen Parents included)
- Responsive Programmes aimed at Children with severe behavioural challenges
- Suicide amongst Young people particularly learners

The process below serves as a guideline on managing services related to the retrieval of new foster care cases as well as the non-funding of Adoption Posts.

a) TAKEOVER OF NEW FOSTER CARE CASES

In the financial year 2024/2025 FY and beyond – in line with the Institutional Realignment Project (IRP) i.e., the Department wish to decrease its over reliance on the NPO Sector and therefore wishes to take over new foster care cases. This is in line with the current trend wherein it is noted that there has been a significant decline in the number of new foster care placements i.e., children placed in related placement are not found in need of care and protection by the Childrens Court instead related placement caregivers are advised to access the Child Support Top Up Grant.

Process to be followed on Children who are to be placed in Foster Care (New intake):-

- Removal of child/children, placement at child in TSC
- 1st court appearance (Court review removal and placement)
- Child in need of care and protection and foster care is the potential alternative care placement option.
- Court to issue a Form 9 (Order of a Children's Court to carry out an investigation in terms of section 50 of the Children's Act, 38 of 2005) to DSD to investigate and finalise accordingly.
- A clear referral matrix must be consulted and agreed upon in each Region with contacted CPOs on how GDSD will receive the File and Form 9 from CPO as well Department of Justice in order to successfully manage the New Foster Care placement.
- Be mindful that Social Workers may find child not suitable for foster care but other alternative placement i.e., adoption, return to family or even guardianship, these alternatives will still remain a service rendered by the CPO.
- A Foster Care Supervision Strategy to be rolled out within GDSD and CPOs – 2024/2025 FY aimed at improving Foster Care Supervision and Management.
- In taking over new foster care cases, Designated Child Protection Organisations however will continue to render all other Statutory services to children, of which monitoring existing foster care cases will still be required.

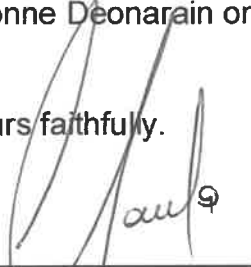
b) NON-FUNDING OF ADOPTION POSTS

On the matter of adoption, the Department took an executive decision not to fund Posts within Designated Child Protection Organisation that render adoption services. The Designated CPOs charge a fee and therefore are able to financially support and sustain the service.

The Department has 136 accredited Adoption Social Workers of which 58 are rendering adoption services. The Department therefore is in a position to offer adoption services free of charge. Hence all clients wishing to adopt a child (irrespective of their financial circumstances) now have the option of either accessing the services free of charge from the Department or at a cost from Designated Child Protection Organisations.

Should you have any enquiries with regards to the content of the correspondence, please feel free to engage your Regional Office or Ms Yvonne Deonaraïn on Yvoned@gauteng.gov.za.

Yours faithfully.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Gasela', written over a horizontal line.

Ms. M. Gasela
Head of Department

Date: 09 APRIL 2024