Iowa Department of Human Services

**Family Interaction Plan**

**General Roles and Responsibilities**

Carefully planned family interaction is a powerful family reunification intervention tool. Family interaction can help implement many essential family reunification goals, including:

* Maintaining the parent, child, and sibling relationships, and other relationships,
* Learning, practicing, and demonstrating new behaviors, parenting skills, and patterns of interactions,
* Enhancing well-being,
* Helping family members work through issues and connect to resources, and
* Documenting progress towards reunification goals.

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| **Role of the DHS Worker** |

* Responsible for ensuring that a written family interaction plan is developed and revised with input from the family team,
* Abide by the *Family Interaction Standards* (Comm. 435),
* Work with the child and parent to help resolve setbacks in the family interaction plan, and
* Stress to all that safety is sole responsibility of the parent.

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| **Role of the Parent** |

* Ensure safety and well-being of the children,
* Attend family interaction as scheduled and engage in discussion regarding progress and concerns observed in their interactions,
* Call in advance to cancel,
* Be receptive to guidance provided during interactions, and
* Follow family interaction plan.

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| **Role of the Caregiver** |

Caregivers can be foster parents, resource families, relatives, kinship, suitable others, etc.

* Participate in the family interaction planning process,
* Communicate the daily activities and progress of the child,
* Collaborate with the family team and support the reunification process, and
* Recognize and understand separation and loss and how it affects child well-being.

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| **Role of the Provider** |

* Abide by the *Family Interaction Standards* (Comm. 435),
* Support and communicate to the parent, caregiver, child, and DHS worker to ensure that family interaction occurs in a safe manner,
* Ensure families are aware of their responsibilities within family interaction planning, and
* Assist families in overcoming barriers to meeting the family interaction goals.

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**Family Interaction Plan**

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| **Background Information** | |
| Children’s names | Date of initial plan |
| Placed with | Placement date for children |
| Why were the children removed from the home? | |
| Permanency goal | |

| **Safety Concerns/Required Level of Supervision** |
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| 1. |
| 2. |
| 3. |

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| 4. |

| **Family Interaction Plan** (Based on developmental needs of the children and safety concerns.) | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Types of Interaction | Frequency | Length of Interaction | Locations | Types of Supervision | Supervised By | Date Reviewed |
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| **Goals to be Accomplished During Family Interaction** | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Desired Behavioral Changes | Demonstrated By | Date Reviewed or Revised |
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| **Transportation** (Describe how transportation will be provided.) |
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| **Expectations of the Family Interaction** (Things to consider: Expectations of what parents should bring to the interaction; what should parents plan or consider doing during the interaction; any restrictions during the interaction; No Contact Order; others to be involved with interactions; any additional information regarding types of interactions or locations; etc.) |
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**\*Any behaviors that provide an unsafe situation may terminate a family interaction.\***