Temporary placement flowchart

Government of South Australia
Department for Child Protection

DCP case worker assesses whether a temporary placement is appropriate in accordance with the legislative criteria

Consider the legislative criteria:
1. The placement is needed as a matter of urgency; **and**
2. It is not reasonably practicable to place the child or young person with an approved carer; **or** it is reasonably practicable to place the child or young person with an approved carer, but it is preferable to place them with a non-approved carer; **and**
3. The risk of harm to the child or young person if they are not placed in a temporary placement exceeds the risk of harm if the child or young person is placed with a non-approved carer.

→ Do not proceed with temporary placement

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DCP case worker obtains the child or young person's views using the Winangay Kids Safe Participation Interview

If it is not reasonably practicable to undertake this interview prior to placement, undertake the interview within ten business days of the placement start date.

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DCP case worker undertakes an initial discussion with the proposed temporary carer

Ascertain the proposed temporary carer's:
- willingness and ability to provide care
- willingness to undergo carer assessment.

Record the outcome of the discussion on the 'Temporary Placement Assessment' page in C3MS. Obtain written consent for child protection and criminal history checks from the proposed carer and adult household members and regular guests.

→ Carer unwilling to provide care, undergo assessment and/or provide consent for checks

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DCP case worker undertakes comprehensive child protection and criminal history checks

- Review and assess 'History Summary' and 'CIS History' tab in C3MS for the proposed carer, their adult children, adult household members and regular guests
- Check Connect for Safety for interstate child protection history and request information from other jurisdictions as required
- Contact SAPOL for a national criminal history check
- Inform the proposed carer and household members of the outcome of the checks and record action plans to mitigate risks to the child or young person (where appropriate)
- Record history check assessment summary and rationale on the 'Temporary Placement Assessment' page in C3MS.

→ Temporary placement not appropriate

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DCP case worker meets with the proposed temporary carer and household members and conducts a home safety check

Obtain written consent for assessment (if not obtained already). Assess the safety of the home environment. Record the assessment using the Winangay Home Safety Check and complete any action plans as required.

→ Temporary placement not appropriate

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DCP case worker consults with a Recognised Organisation (for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants, children and young people)

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Supervisor makes decision about whether to approve for the child or young person to be placed with the temporary carer

Record the rationale for the decision to approve or not approve the temporary placement on the 'Temporary Placement Assessment' page in C3MS. Record the placement in C3MS and ensure the temporary placement end date is within three months of the placement start date.

→ Supervisor does not approve the temporary placement → **DCP case worker does not proceed with temporary placement**

Advise the proposed carer of the decision. Record the rationale in C3MS, seek the supervisor's approval, provide the proposed carer with information about the Internal Review process.

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DCP case worker prepares for the placement

Ensure:
- the child or young person and their carer are prepared
- safe sleeping information has been provided (for carers of infants)
- financial and other assistance is arranged
- refer for a kinship care worker (as appropriate)

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DCP case worker places and supports the child or young person in the temporary placement

Maintain contact with the child or young person and the temporary carer. Work in partnership with the DCP kinship care worker to implement and monitor placement supports. Adjust the frequency of contact to meet the child or young person's support needs.

→ Child or young person is unsafe in the temporary placement → **DCP case worker considers further action required to keep the child or young person safe (including removal, where necessary)**

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DCP case worker interviews the temporary carer and completes other assessment tasks

Complete:
- Winangay Kids Safe Interview with the temporary carer and other adult household members
- Kids Our Say interview with other children and young people in the temporary carer's household
- Third party referee check

Discuss the carer's willingness and ability to continue caring for the child or young person, their willingness to undergo a full carer assessment and the requirement for all carers and adult household members to have a valid Working With Children Check. Obtain the child or young person's views about the placement. Follow up on action plans with the temporary carer. Initiate Working With Children Check applications (as required).

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The DCP case worker completes the final summary report using the assessment report template and makes recommendations

Complete the assessment report and make recommendations about the temporary carer's suitability to continue providing care and to undergo a full carer assessment. Discuss the outcome of the assessment report and the recommendations with the carer. Obtain the carer's signature for the report. Ensure that all of the relevant assessment documents and the final summary report have been uploaded to the 'Temporary Placement Assessment' page in C3MS. Seek the supervisor's approval for the finalised assessment and recommendations.

→ Temporary carer is unsuitable to provide long-term care → **Seek other placement options while child or young person remains in temporary placement**

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Forward the carer's application to the Kinship Assessment Team for full carer assessment

Provide information to the Kinship Assessment team as required. Seek approval for a consecutive temporary placement from the Executive Director, Out of Home Care where required.

To be read in conjunction with Assess and seek approval for a temporary placement (if required) in the Place a child or young person in care chapter of the Manual of Practice.