Guide for Sibling Separation Split Request

A Sibling Separation Split Request shall be submitted when it is determined by a child's permanency team it would be in his/her best interest to be permanently separated from his or her siblings who also have case plan goals of adoption, after all attempts to maintain the siblings together have proven unsuccessful. Things to consider are:

- Birth family information, including why the children were brought into care and the siblings’ relationship in the birth family.
- History of out of home placement – when and why siblings were separated, attempts to place them together, sibling interactions and behavior management efforts when placed together.
- Therapeutic attempts (and their results) to address behaviors or needs which prevent siblings from being together.
- Short and long term impacts of siblings staying together or separated.
- Current sibling visitation/contact plans, and specific plans for maintaining contact if separated.
- Resource family information.
- Possible case plan goal changes, if appropriate.

Supporting documentation from other team members (i.e. input from the family members, therapist reports, letters from placement providers, etc.) should be submitted with the request.

Sibling Separation Split Requests shall be forwarded to the CWCMP Sibling Separation Split Request Review Team for approval. The Review Team shall include at the DCF Regional Foster Care Program Administrator or designee. A written response shall be returned to the case manager with a copy to DCF Regional Foster Care Program Administrator or designee within 10 working days following their receipt of the request.

Helpful References:  [https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/siblingissues.pdf](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/siblingissues.pdf)

The Sibling Bond: It’s Importance in Foster Care and Adoptive Placement. Gloria Hochman, Ellen Feather-Acuna, and Anna Huston of the National Adoption Center for the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse, 1992.

A Child’s Journey Through Placement. Vera Fahlberg