



The Honorable Senator Kenneth Lambert, Chair
Joint Budget Committee
200 East 14th Ave, Third Floor
Denver, CO 80203

November 10, 2017

Dear Senator Lambert:

Enclosed is the annual legislative report to the Joint Budget Committee regarding the first placement of children and youth removed from their home from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Section 19-3-214, C.R.S. requires the Colorado Department of Human Services to submit an annual placement report by December 1.

Placement Reporting. (1) Each county department shall maintain and update on a monthly basis a report of the number of children who have been removed from their homes and placed in the temporary legal custody of the county department for the preceding month. The report shall indicate whether a child who has been placed out of the home has been placed with relatives. (2) The state department shall submit an annual report to the joint budget committee of the general assembly no later than December 1 of each year that compiles the monthly reports of the number of children who have been placed out of the home in each county or city and county for the preceding year as required pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.

The placement report contains data collected from the Child Welfare Case Management System (Trails) and is located at the end of this document. A description of the fields in the report follows the summary.

In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017, 4,938 children and youth (unduplicated count) were removed from their parents or legal custodians. Some of these children and youth (230) were removed from their parents or legal custodians more than once. Combined, the total number of removals was 5,168 (duplicated count). Of all children and youth removed, 2,920 were placed in the legal custody of county departments of human or social services (herein referred to as county departments) for varying periods of time.

The difference between the number of children and youth who were removed and the number placed in the legal custody of county departments was positively impacted by legally mandated practice. County departments are required to identify and locate non-custodial parents, relatives, or others with a significant relationship to the child or youth for their willingness to provide temporary care. Potential caretakers are assessed for the capacity to protect and to keep the child or youth safe while concerns regarding the family are addressed. Sometimes the need for county departments to assume temporary legal custody is mitigated. Services are provided to the families and to the caregivers as needed until safety issues are resolved. This approach accounted for some of the 2,107 children and youth initially placed into non-certified kinship care.

In other situations, the county department assumed temporary legal custody while those with a prior relationship to the child or youth were identified, located, and evaluated. Once identified the county department was required to inform the caregiver about options to become a kinship foster parent or a non-certified kinship caregiver. For those choosing to be non-certified (subset of the 2,107 children and youth identified above), the court generally transferred temporary legal custody to the caregiver while the family addressed their safety issues. The 77 children and youth placed in kinship foster care homes were all in the legal custody of county departments.

If you require further information or have additional questions, please contact Riley Kitts, the Department's Legislative Liaison at riley.kitts@state.co.us or 303-866-5799.



- Column 1: *Identified county*
- Column 2: *Number of children:* This is an *unduplicated* count of children/youth that were removed from their home at some point during the year. This means each child/youth is counted once.
- Column 3: *Number of removals:* This is the *duplicated* count of the number of children/youth who were removed from their home at some point during the year. More than one removal occurred for some of the children/youth during the timeframe of the report. This means the child/youth was removed from their home, then reunified with their parent/guardian, and then removed again.
- Column 4: *Placed in county custody:* Of the children/youth who were removed from their homes, this indicates the number of children/youth who were placed in the legal custody of the county departments. The number of children/youth who are in the legal custody of county departments is significantly lower than the number of removals (unduplicated and duplicated count columns 2 and 3 respectively). This may occur for different reasons. For example, when children/youth are in imminent danger, the county department or local law enforcement may release the child to a relative or another individual who has a relationship with the child/youth. The relative or individual will provide safety for the child/youth until the family issues can be resolved. In another scenario, the county department may recommend to the court with jurisdiction that the child/youth be released to the care and legal custody of the relative or identified caretaker. In some cases, the child/youth will be released to the non-custodial parent and the county does not pursue legal custody.
- Column 5: *First service entered kinship care:* This is the number of children/youth who were placed with relatives or individual(s) with a known relationship to the child/youth and who were non-certified caregivers and *not* kinship foster parents.
- Column 6: *First service entered kinship foster care:* This is the number of children/youth whose first out-of-home placement was with a relative or individual with a known relationship to the child/youth and who was a kinship foster parent.

Sincerely,



Reggie Bicha, Executive Director

Attachment:

State Legislative Report: Placement Reporting

CC: Rep. Millie Hamner, Vice Chair
Sen. Dominick Moreno
Sen. Kevin Lundberg
Rep. Dave Young
Rep. Bob Rankin



**Colorado Department of Human Services
Trails System Report
Division of Child Welfare
State Legislative Report
From: 7/1/2016 To: 6/30/2017**

County ID/Name	Number of Individual Children Removed From the Custodial Home (Unduplicated Count)	Number of Removals of Children From the Custodial Home Including Children Who Were Removed More Than Once (Duplicated Count)	Number of Children Placed in County Custody	First Service Entered Kinship Care	First Service Entered Kinship Foster Care
01 Adams	496	519	269	269	7
02 Alamosa	37	42	19	10	1
03 Arapahoe	421	456	281	121	0
04 Archuleta	16	16	5	4	3
05 Baca	5	5	4	1	0
06 Bent	9	9	4	6	0
07 Boulder	148	153	99	54	5
08 Chaffee	30	35	22	10	3
09 Cheyenne	2	2	0	1	0
10 Clear Creek	6	6	4	0	0
11 Conejos	21	22	8	15	0
12 Costilla	23	23	16	10	0
13 Crowley	8	8	7	5	0
14 Custer	3	3	2	2	0
15 Delta	74	76	42	42	0
16 Denver	814	860	523	399	1
17 Dolores	0	0	0	0	0
18 Douglas	105	114	65	39	0
19 Eagle	10	10	5	3	0
20 Elbert	3	3	2	0	0
21 El Paso	847	878	444	372	1
22 Fremont	116	117	79	64	0
23 Garfield	47	48	31	1	16
24 Gilpin	0	0	0	0	0
25 Grand	6	6	3	3	0
26 Gunnison	7	8	3	2	0
27 Hinsdale	0	0	0	0	0
28 Huerfano	13	14	11	2	2
29 Jackson	0	0	0	0	0
30 Jefferson	430	450	237	272	0
31 Kiowa	13	13	6	9	2
32 Kit Carson	5	5	4	1	0
33 Lake	3	3	0	0	0

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34 La Plata	48	57	30	8	5
35 Larimer	181	186	65	85	6
36 Las Animas	15	16	10	5	0
37 Lincoln	8	9	3	2	0
38 Logan	41	42	26	19	5
39 Mesa	262	271	168	84	3
40 Mineral	1	1	0	0	0
41 Moffat	15	15	14	2	1
42 Montezuma	21	23	15	9	0
43 Montrose	75	79	36	22	0
44 Morgan	32	33	14	4	0
45 Otero	47	47	36	17	1
46 Ouray	0	0	0	0	0
47 Park	8	8	6	0	5
48 Phillips	7	7	2	0	0
49 Pitkin	1	1	0	0	0
50 Prowers	25	26	16	19	0
51 Pueblo	246	258	163	108	0
52 Rio Blanco	11	11	9	7	0
53 Rio Grande	17	17	9	0	1
54 Routt	7	8	5	1	2
55 Saguache	7	7	3	6	0
56 San Juan	0	0	0	0	0
57 San Miguel	3	3	2	0	0
58 Sedgwick	3	3	0	0	0
59 Summit	2	2	1	0	0
60 Teller	12	12	7	1	0
61 Washington	6	6	5	0	0
62 Weld	180	182	128	11	4
63 Yuma	9	9	4	1	3
80 Broomfield	31	32	15	13	1
State Totals	4,938	5,168	2,920	2,107	77