



DCY Letter 24-XXX
Division of Policy

TO: Directors and Administrators, Public Children Services Agencies
Directors and Administrators, Private Child Placing Agencies
Directors and Administrators, Private Non-Custodial Agencies
Judges and Administrators, Title IV-E Juvenile Courts

FROM: Gina Speaks-Eshler, Deputy Director of Policy

DATE: April 30, 2024

SUBJECT: Launch of DCY Continuous Certification and OCAF Information website

Background

House Bill 33 (HB 33) of the 135th General Assembly, signed by Governor DeWine, revised Ohio Revised Code (ORC) sections to revise recertification processes to a continuous certification process for agencies, foster homes, and adoption homes. The Ohio Certification for Agencies and Families (OCAF) system was announced by Governor DeWine and Lieutenant Governor Husted in a press conference on May 24, 2023. This system will streamline the certification and monitoring process for agencies, facilities, as well as foster and adoptive parents in Ohio, by providing one centralized system for all activities. OCAF is being implemented in several phases. The first phase contains systems support for Agency Certification process and continuous certification for foster care agencies. This phase is anticipated to be completed by October 2024. Continuous certification streamlines the agency application process by reducing paperwork and allowing more flexibility of timeframes to allow agencies and resource caregivers to serve families and children more efficiently in Ohio. With OCAF in place, the current Ohio Certification and Licensing Management (OCALM) system will be retired and the home certification and monitoring pieces from Ohio Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) will be removed and placed into OCAF.

Purpose

The Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) is announcing the creation of [DCY Continuous Certification and OCAF Information](#) site. This is a site devoted to providing and housing information to aide in the use of OCAF and the transition to continuous certification. This site will serve as a depository for all information regarding implementation, rollout, and



use of OCAF along with the implementation of continuous certification application and monitoring and provide the following:

- Library of communications sent to agencies from DCY.
- Ohio Administrative Code Rules and planning.
- Updates and information regarding OCAF and phases for rollout.
- Training on OCAF, Child Match, and Continuous Certification.
- Guidance for implementation and monitoring.
- Licensing/monitoring information and updates.
- Ability to submit questions through the site.
- Frequently Asked Questions with responses; including submitted questions.
- Application and impact of OCAF to agency types.

The site is public facing for easy access. A user who does not have an OHID will be able to request access through the site. If you have additional questions pertaining to Continuous Certification or the rollout of OCAF, please contact the [Customer Care Center](#).