



OFFICE OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN
Families and Children Letter FCL 024

To: Private and Public Agency Directors, IV-E Court Administrators

From: Jeffery Van Deusen, Deputy Director
Office of Families and Children

Date: March 10, 2022

Subject: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)
2020 Final Rule

Background:

The Administration for Children and Families published the AFCARS 2020 Final Rule on May 12, 2020. Changes in Ohio SACWIS will be implemented as a result, allowing the state to maintain compliance with AFCARS reporting. These changes will begin with the 4.19 SACWIS build and will continue to occur throughout subsequent SACWIS builds spanning into November 2022.

The Office of Families and Children is planning AFCARS 2020 training and education for all state users with the goal of communicating AFCARS 2020 requirements and Ohio SACWIS data entry requirements. Additional information will be shared when the training and education plan is finalized. Ohio SACWIS users can learn more about the AFCARS 2020 Final Rule by visiting the following websites:

- [Federal Register :: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System](#)
- [AFCARS Final Rule Webinars and Training Materials | The Administration for Children and Families \(hhs.gov\)](#)

In addition, Ohio specific information for AFCARS 2020 can be accessed in the Ohio SACWIS Knowledge Base Link below. Currently, this web page has limited information but will be updated frequently during AFCARS 2020 rollout:

- [SACWIS Knowledge Base - AFCARS 2020 \(jfskb.com\)](#)

Summary:

As a result of the new AFCARS 2020 initiative, data entry in SACWIS will be impacted.. All changes will be supported with training and additions to the SACWIS Knowledge Base. The following is a high-level overview of the key changes.

1. Removal Reason changes
 - a. The Child and Family Circumstances at Removal section of AFCARS 2020 has expanded to separate previously combined removal reasons and to add new removal reasons. The new AFCARS elements will result in changes to the Removal Reasons section of the Initial Removal screen. Caseworkers will see some Removal Reasons eliminated from the list of selections and certain Removal Reasons being expanded to reflect more accurately what the Removal Reason indicates while also complying with the AFCARS changes. Caseworkers will also see several new Removal Reasons that are being added due to the expansion of values in the new AFCARS guidance.
2. New Guardianship page
 - a. AFCARS 2020 adds Guardianship information. This is true for both information regarding Guardianship spans and information pertaining to the child's guardian. To gather all information that AFCARS is requiring, the SACWIS Project Team will be adding a Guardianship tab to the left-hand navigation within the case. This Guardianship page will include a LIST page that will show all Guardianship episodes for the relevant children. Within each Guardianship record, the new DETAILS screen will document information specific to the Guardianship episode, e.g., Begin and End Date and Guardian information.
3. Sex Trafficking
 - a. AFCARS 2020 includes additional elements detailing if a child was or is currently a victim of sex trafficking. Much of this information will come from existing data in SACWIS. Caseworkers will see the addition of a sex trafficking section within the Person Module. This section will serve as a place within SACWIS to holistically capture sex trafficking information. This section will evolve in conjunction with the upcoming CAPM Family Assessment Changes regarding sex trafficking.
4. ICWA
 - a. Another change to AFCARS elements is the capture of ICWA information for children, parents, and caregivers. While caseworkers will not see

changes to the ICWA fields in SACWIS, there will be changes to validations and required fields to ensure that ICWA information is being captured for all relevant parties in a way that satisfies the AFCARS requirements.

5. Ruling and Motion
 - a. Changes will occur to ruling and motion to gather information on voluntary versus involuntary termination of parental rights (TPR) as well as validations for TPR.

6. Overall validations at certain points in the workflow will require data entry. Many of the validations will take the user to a person specific screen in order to input the required data field and, once entered return the user back to the main screen.
 - a. Case Review
 - b. Family Case Plan
 - c. Placement
 - d. Rulings
 - e. Create Adoption Case
 - f. Seal
 - g. Inactivate Case Member/Adoption Case Member
 - h. Custody Termination to Relative
 - i. Initial Removal
 - j. Date of prior adoption on person record
 - k. Home Study Validations for gender, address, marital status

Contact:

Please send any questions regarding the AFCARS 2020 changes to the OFC Help Desk at: HELP-DESK-OCF@jfs.ohio.gov.