



**State of Florida  
Department of Children and Families**

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Chad Poppell**  
Secretary

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**DATE:** August 30, 2019

**TO:** Regional Managing Directors  
Community-Based Care Lead Agency CEOs  
Sheriff's Offices Conducting Child Protective Investigations

**THROUGH:** Patricia Babcock, Deputy Secretary *PB*

**FROM:** Patricia Medlock, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare *PM*

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of Chapter 65C-44, F.A.C., Guardianship Assistance Program and repeal of CFOP 170-10, Chapter 14, Guardianship Assistance Program Eligibility

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**PURPOSE:** The memorandum is to advise that CFOP 170-10, Chapter 14, Guardianship Assistance Program Eligibility has been repealed and replaced with Chapter 65C-44, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

**BACKGROUND:** In preparation of the end of Florida's Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project, Florida has implemented a Path Forward initiative to explore ways to maximize federal dollars received by our state. This initiative includes the implementation of the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) effective July 1, 2019. Title IV-E GAP allows relatives and fictive kin caregivers to receive Guardianship Assistance payments and Medicaid until the child reaches the age of 18. The implementation of GAP will also provide an additional benefit to eligible children through the Extension of Guardianship Assistance Program until 21 years of age.

Chapter 65C-44, F.A.C., titled Guardianship Assistance Program, has been adopted and became effective on July 23, 2019; this rule supersedes CFOP 170-10, Chapter 14. The rule can be viewed in its entirety at:

<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=65C-44>

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Please share this memorandum with all appropriate staff in the regions, circuits, community-based care lead agencies, case management organizations, and sheriff offices conducting child protective investigations.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** If you have questions or need clarification regarding this memorandum or the new rule, please contact Teanna Houston, Statewide Foster Home Licensing Specialist, at [Teanna.Houston@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Teanna.Houston@myflfamilies.com) or 850-717-4203.

cc: Regional Family and Community Services Directors  
Grainne O'Sullivan, Statewide Director, Children's Legal Services  
Scott Stewart, Assistant Secretary for Operations  
Center for Child Welfare

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Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency