

**ADMIN LETTER # C.S. 05-01**

**TO: COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**SUBJECT: NEW VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT  
FORM (DSS 1789)**

**DATE: November 29, 2001**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2002**

**ATTENTION: Children's Services Social Workers**

**Children's Services Supervisors**

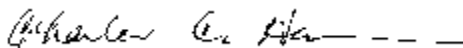
This letter provides you with the newly revised Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA) form (DSS 1789). The revised form reflects the shortened time period within which the initial review hearing is to be held (from 180 days from the time of placement to 90 days). The form also reflects the shortened time period that a juvenile may remain in foster care under a Voluntary Placement Agreement without filing a petition (from 180 days to 6 months). The revised form becomes effective January 1, 2002.

For children who come into care on or after January 1, 2002 through a Voluntary Placement Agreement, initial court reviews shall be held within 90 days of the placement. For children who are currently in care on a Voluntary Placement Agreement or who will come into care under a Voluntary Placement Agreement prior to January 1, 2002, the current statute regarding an initial court review within 180 days still applies.

The revised Voluntary Placement Agreement form (DSS 1789) also includes language specifying that a VPA that is signed by the parent or legal guardian may be faxed to the agency and the signature is as valid as if the parent or legal guardian had signed the VPA in person. **Note:** Permission for a Voluntary Placement Agreement made by telephone is **not valid** and the agency may not place a child in care with this type of permission.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact the Policy and Initiatives Team at (919) 733-4622.

Sincerely,



Charles C. Harris, Chief

Children's Services Section

Attachment

[DSS-1789 \(pdf\)](#)

[DSS-1789 \(msword\)](#)

cc: Pheon Beal

Sherry Bradsher

Children's Services Team Leaders

Children's Programs Representatives