

## § 303.17

### § 303.17 Multidisciplinary.

As used in this part, *multidisciplinary* means the involvement of two or more disciplines or professions in the provision of integrated and coordinated services, including evaluation and assessment activities in § 303.322 and development of the IFSP in § 303.342.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1435(a)(3), 1436(a))

### § 303.18 Natural environments.

As used in this part, *natural environments* means settings that are natural or normal for the child's age peers who have no disabilities.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1435 and 1436)

[63 FR 18294, Apr. 14, 1998]

### § 303.19 Parent.

(a) *General.* As used in this part, "parent" means—

(1) A natural or adoptive parent of a child;

(2) A guardian;

(3) A person acting in the place of a parent (such as a grandparent or step-parent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare); or

(4) A surrogate parent who has been assigned in accordance with § 303.406.

(b) *Foster parent.* Unless State law prohibits a foster parent from acting as a parent, a State may allow a foster parent to act as a parent under Part C of the Act if—

(1) The natural parents' authority to make the decisions required of parents under the Act has been extinguished under State law; and

(2) The foster parent—

(i) Has an ongoing, long-term parental relationship with the child;

(ii) Is willing to make the decisions required of parents under the Act; and

(iii) Has no interest that would conflict with the interests of the child.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1401(19), 1431-1445)

[64 FR 12535, Mar. 12, 1999]

### § 303.20 Policies.

(a) As used in this part, *policies* means State statutes, regulations, Governor's orders, directives by the lead agency, or other written documents that represent the State's posi-

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tion concerning any matter covered under this part.

(b) State policies include—

(1) A State's commitment to maintain the statewide system (see § 303.140);

(2) A State's eligibility criteria and procedures (see § 303.300);

(3) A statement that, consistent with § 303.520(b), provides that services under this part will be provided at no cost to parents, except where a system of payments is provided for under Federal or State law.

(4) A State's standards for personnel who provide services to children eligible under this part (see § 303.361);

(5) A State's position and procedures related to contracting or making other arrangements with service providers under subpart F of this part; and

(6) Other positions that the State has adopted related to implementing any of the other requirements under this part.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1431-1445)

[58 FR 40959, July 30, 1993. Redesignated and amended at 63 FR 18294, Apr. 14, 1998]

### § 303.21 Public agency.

As used in this part, *public agency* includes the lead agency and any other political subdivision of the State that is responsible for providing early intervention services to children eligible under this part and their families.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1431-1445)

[58 FR 40959, July 30, 1993. Redesignated at 63 FR 18294, Apr. 14, 1998]

### § 303.22 Qualified.

As used in this part, *qualified* means that a person has met State approved or recognized certification, licensing, registration, or other comparable requirements that apply to the area in which the person is providing early intervention services.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1432(4))

NOTE: These regulations contain the following provisions relating to a State's responsibility to ensure that personnel are qualified to provide early intervention services:

1. Section 303.12(a)(4) provides that early intervention services must meet State standards. This provision implements a requirement that is similar to a longstanding provision under part B of the Act (i.e., that the State educational agency establish standards and ensure that those standards are currently met for all programs providing special education and related services).

2. Section 303.12(a)(3)(ii) provides that early intervention services must be provided by qualified personnel.

3. Section 303.361(b) requires statewide systems to have policies and procedures relating to personnel standards.

[58 FR 40959, July 30, 1993. Redesignated at 63 FR 18294, Apr. 14, 1998]

**§ 303.23 Service coordination (case management).**

(a) *General.* (1) As used in this part, except in § 303.12(d)(11), *service coordination* means the activities carried out by a service coordinator to assist and enable a child eligible under this part and the child's family to receive the rights, procedural safeguards, and services that are authorized to be provided under the State's early intervention program.

(2) Each child eligible under this part and the child's family must be provided with one service coordinator who is responsible for—

(i) Coordinating all services across agency lines; and

(ii) Serving as the single point of contact in helping parents to obtain the services and assistance they need.

(3) Service coordination is an active, ongoing process that involves—

(i) Assisting parents of eligible children in gaining access to the early intervention services and other services identified in the individualized family service plan;

(ii) Coordinating the provision of early intervention services and other services (such as medical services for other than diagnostic and evaluation purposes) that the child needs or is being provided;

(iii) Facilitating the timely delivery of available services; and

(iv) Continuously seeking the appropriate services and situations necessary to benefit the development of each child being served for the duration of the child's eligibility.

(b) *Specific service coordination activities.* Service coordination activities include—

(1) Coordinating the performance of evaluations and assessments;

(2) Facilitating and participating in the development, review, and evaluation of individualized family service plans;

(3) Assisting families in identifying available service providers;

(4) Coordinating and monitoring the delivery of available services;

(5) Informing families of the availability of advocacy services;

(6) Coordinating with medical and health providers; and

(7) Facilitating the development of a transition plan to preschool services, if appropriate.

(c) *Employment and assignment of service coordinators.* (1) Service coordinators may be employed or assigned in any way that is permitted under State law, so long as it is consistent with the requirements of this part.

(2) A State's policies and procedures for implementing the statewide system of early intervention services must be designed and implemented to ensure that service coordinators are able to effectively carry out on an interagency basis the functions and services listed under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

(d) *Qualifications of service coordinators.* Service coordinators must be persons who, consistent with § 303.344(g), have demonstrated knowledge and understanding about—

(1) Infants and toddlers who are eligible under this part;

(2) Part C of the Act and the regulations in this part; and

(3) The nature and scope of services available under the State's early intervention program, the system of payments for services in the State, and other pertinent information.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1432(4))

NOTE 1: If States have existing service coordination systems, the States may use or adapt those systems, so long as they are consistent with the requirements of this part.

NOTE 2: The legislative history of the 1991 amendments to the Act indicates that the use of the term "service coordination" was not intended to affect the authority to seek reimbursement for services provided under Medicaid or any other legislation that makes