

AFCARS Assessment Review Case File Findings: Foster Care Data Elements

State: Alaska

Report Period Under Review: April 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006 (2006B)

| AFCARS Element | Data In AFCARS Matches Case File | Data In AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File | Questionable | Not Found | Comments |
|--|---|---|---------------------|------------------|--|
| #3 Local FIPS Code | 49 | 1 | 0 | 0 | The case was reported as Juneau and it was actually Nome. |
| #5 Most Recent Periodic Review Date | 22 | 27 | 1 | 0 | The error cases did not have a date reported in AFCARS. In each case the child had been in care for more than six months. In eight cases the child entered care in 2005, in six cases 2004, in two 2003, two in 2002, and one in 1999. In the questionable case, the date reported to AFCARS was 8/1/2006, but the reviewer noted 8/7/2006; may have been a data entry error. |
| #6 Child Birth Date | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #7 Child Sex 1 = Male 2 = Female | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #8 Child Race a. American Indian or Alaska Native | 47 | 1 | 0 | 2 | In one error case, the AFCARS fields (a - f) were blank, but the reviewer found race information. |
| b. Asian | 46 | 2 | 0 | 2 | In one error case, the reviewer found this as an additional race. |
| c. Black or African American | 46 | 2 | 0 | 2 | The error cases should have been "yes" instead of "no." One was an additional race. |
| d. Native Hawaiian or | 47 | 1 | 0 | 2 | |

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|--|---|---|---------------------|------------------|---|
| Other Pacific Islander | | | | | |
| e. White | 43 | 5 | 0 | 2 | In four error cases, the response should have been "yes" instead of "no." In three error cases, the reviewer found this as an additional race. In one error case, the response should have been "no" instead of "yes." |
| f. Unable to Determine | 47 | 1 | 0 | 2 | |
| #9 Child Hispanic Origin 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine | 41 | 4 | 0 | 5 | In two error cases, data were not reported to AFCARS, but the reviewer found a response ("no"). In two error cases, the AFCARS data were missing; the reviewer was not able to find the information in the paper file. |
| #10 Has Child Been Diagnosed with Disability? | 43 | 7 | 0 | 0 | In one error case, the AFCARS field was blank, but the reviewer found the answer to be "no." In one error case, the response should have been "not yet determined" instead of "no." The child had been in care only three days and no medical report was in the file. In five error cases, the response should have been "yes" instead of "not yet determined." |

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|--|---|---|---------------------|------------------|---|
| #11 Mental Retardation | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #12 Visually/Hearing Impaired | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #13 Physically Disabled | 49 | 1 | 0 | 0 | The response should have been “applies” instead of “does not apply.” |
| #14 Emotionally Disturbed | 46 | 4 | 0 | 0 | In one error case, the response should have been “does not apply” instead of “applies.” In three error cases, the response should have been “applies” instead of “does not apply.” |
| #15 Other Diagnosed Condition | 46 | 4 | 0 | 0 | The responses should have been “applies” instead of “does not apply.” |
| #16 Has Child Ever Been Adopted? 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine | 32 | 18 | 0 | 0 | In the error cases, the AFCARS files were missing data. In 16 of them the reviewer found that the child had not been previously adopted. In two the reviewer could not find the information (more than likely the response was “no”). |
| #17 Age at Previous Adoption 0 = Not Applicable 1 = less than 2 years old 2 = 2-5 years old 3 = 6-12 years old | 0 | 50 | 0 | 0 | All of these records were reported as blank. In 32 of them, the response should have been “not applicable.” |

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|--|----------------------------------|--|--------------|-----------|--|
| 4 = 13 years or older 5 = Unable to Determine | | | | | |
| #18 Date of First Removal from Home | 36 | 14 | 0 | 0 | <p>In eight error cases, there were multiple removals not reported to AFCARS. In one case, the AFCARS date was 2003 and the reviewer found the first removal occurred in 1996. In one case, the AFCARS date was 2004, and the reviewer found a first removal date of 2000. Two of the cases had removal dates of 1995, one in 1998, one in 1999, one in 2003, and one 2005. These were removals that occurred prior to ORCA becoming fully operational.</p> <p>In three error cases, the reviewers found that the child had a date of first removal earlier than the one reported to AFCARS.</p> <p>In one error case, the date of removal was actually two days prior to the date reported (this was the child's only removal).</p> <p>In two error cases, the child's first placement was in a hospital and this was the date reported as removal for AFCARS, instead of the date the foster care placement began. In one of the</p> |

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|---|---|---|---------------------|------------------|--|
| | | | | | cases, it was the child's only removal episode. |
| #19 Total Number of Removals from Home | 41 | 9 | 0 | 0 | In eight cases, there were multiple removals not reported to AFCARS. In one instance, there were four removals instead of the one reported to AFCARS. In one error case, there was one less removal than what was reported in AFCARS. |
| #20 Date of Discharge from Previous Episode | 40 | 10 | 0 | 0 | There was one record with a date, but the reviewer confirmed there had only been one removal episode (element #19 was reported correctly). In eight of the error cases, there were multiple removals not reported to AFCARS. In one error case, the reviewer found a date that was three months later than the one reported to AFCARS. |
| #21 Date of Latest Removal | 40 | 10 | 0 | 0 | In one error case, the date of removal was actually two days prior to the date reported (this was the child's only removal). In two error cases, the child's first placement was in a hospital and this was |

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| | | | | | <p>the date reported as removal for AFCARS, instead of the date the foster care placement began. In one of the cases, it was the child's only removal episode.</p> <p>In seven error cases, the reviewers found earlier dates than what were reported to AFCARS. One was a week earlier. One was in 1998, one was in 1999, one was 2002, one was in 2000, and one was in 2003.</p> |
| #23 Date of Placement in Current Setting | 47 | 3 | 0 | 0 | In the error cases, the date the "trial home visit" began should have been reported. |
| #24 Number of Previous Placement Settings in This Episode | 41 | 8 | 0 | 1 | <p>In six of the error cases, there were more placements than what were reported to AFCARS.</p> <p>In two of the error cases, there were fewer placements than what was reported to AFCARS.</p> |
| #25 Manner of Removal From Home for This Episode 1 = Voluntary 2 = Court Ordered | 12 | 38 | 0 | 0 | In all of the error cases, the AFCARS data indicated "not yet determined." In every case, the child had been in care for more than three days and the reviewer noted the manner as "court ordered." In several cases, the child had been in care for more than a year. |

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|--------------------------|---|---|---------------------|------------------|---|
| 3 = Not Yet Determined | | | | | |
| #26 Physical Abuse | 46 | 3 | 0 | 1 | The responses should have been “applies” instead of “does not apply.” |
| #27 Sexual Abuse | 47 | 2 | 0 | 1 | In 1 of the error cases, the response should have been “applies” instead of “does not apply.” In 1 of the error cases, the response should have been “does not apply” instead of “applies.” |
| #28 Neglect | 42 | 7 | 0 | 1 | In the error cases, the response should have been “applies” instead of “does not apply.” |
| #29 Parent Alcohol Abuse | 26 | 23 | 0 | 1 | In the error cases, the response should have been “applies” instead of “does not apply.” |
| #30 Parent Drug Abuse | 45 | 4 | 0 | 1 | In all of the error cases, the response should have been “applies” instead of “does not apply.” |
| #31 Child Alcohol Abuse | 34 | 15 | 0 | 1 | In one of the error cases, the response should have been “applies” instead of “does not apply.” In 14 of the error cases, the response should have been “does not apply” instead of “applies.” |
| #32 Child Drug Abuse | 49 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| #33 Child Disability | 49 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |

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|---------------------------------|---|---|---------------------|------------------|--|
| #34 Child's Behavior Problem | 49 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| #35 Death of Parent | 49 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| #36 Incarceration of Parent | 45 | 4 | 0 | 1 | In two of the error cases, the response should have been "does not apply" instead of "applies." In two of the error cases, the response should have been "applies" instead of "does not apply." |
| #37 Caretaker Inability to Cope | 43 | 6 | 0 | 1 | In the error cases, the response should have been "applies" instead of "does not apply." |
| #38 Abandonment | 48 | 1 | 0 | 1 | In the error case, the response should have been "does not apply" instead of "applies." |
| #39 Relinquishment | 49 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| #40 Inadequate Housing | 47 | 2 | 0 | 1 | In one of the error cases, the response should have been "does not apply" instead of "applies." In one of the error cases, the response should have been "applies" instead of "does not apply." |
| #41 Current Placement Setting | 44 | 2 | 1 | 3 | In one error case, the response should have been "foster family home (relative)" instead of "foster family home (non-relative)." |

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|--|---|---|---------------------|------------------|--|---------------|------------------|----------|---------------------|---------------|---|---------------------|----------|---|---------------------|--------------|---|---------------|----------|---|----------|---------------|---|
| 1 = Pre-Adoptive Home 2 = Foster Family Home (Relative) 3 = Foster Family Home (Non-Relative) 4 = Group Home 5 = Institution 6 = Supervised Independent Living 7 = Runaway 8 = Trial Home Visit | | | | | In one error case, the response should have been “pre-adoptive home” instead of “foster family home (relative).” The relatives became pre-adoptive parents. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| #42 Out of State Placement | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| #43 Most Recent Case Plan Goal 1 = Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s) 2 = Live with Other Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Long Term Foster Care 5 = Emancipation 6 = Guardianship 7 = Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established | 41 | 6 | 0 | 3 | In the error cases the reviewers found the following: <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>AFCARS</u></th> <th><u>Case File</u></th> <th><u>#</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Not yet established</td> <td>Reunification</td> <td align="right">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not yet established</td> <td>Adoption</td> <td align="right">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not yet established</td> <td>Long-Term FC</td> <td align="right">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reunification</td> <td>Adoption</td> <td align="right">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adoption</td> <td>Reunification</td> <td align="right">1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | <u>AFCARS</u> | <u>Case File</u> | <u>#</u> | Not yet established | Reunification | 1 | Not yet established | Adoption | 2 | Not yet established | Long-Term FC | 1 | Reunification | Adoption | 1 | Adoption | Reunification | 1 |
| <u>AFCARS</u> | <u>Case File</u> | <u>#</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Not yet established | Reunification | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Not yet established | Adoption | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Not yet established | Long-Term FC | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reunification | Adoption | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Adoption | Reunification | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| #44 Caretaker Family Structure 1 = Married Couple | 45 | 4 | 0 | 1 | In two error cases, the AFCARS data indicated “unable to determine,” but there were years reported for the | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male 5 = Unable to Determine | | | | | caretaker's birth year elements. In one error case, the AFCARS data indicated "unable to determine," but there was a year reported for the first caretaker's birth year elements. In one error case, the AFCARS data indicated "single female," but a date of birth was reported in element #46. |
| #45 1 st Primary Caretaker's Birth Year | 44 | 2 | 0 | 4 | In one error case, this field was blank, but the reviewer found a date. |
| #46 2 nd Primary Caretaker's Birth Year | 40 | 8 | 0 | 2 | In seven error cases, this field was blank, but element #44 indicated a "married couple" or "unmarried couple." In one error case this field was blank, and the reviewer found a date. Also, element #44 was reported as "married couple." |
| #47 Mother's Date of TPR | 40 | 10 | 0 | 0 | In three error cases, the reviewer found a deceased date that was not reported to AFCARS (the field was blank). In seven error cases this field was blank, but the reviewer found a date of TPR. Reviewers found that the TPR date was recorded from a variety of sources: the |

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|---|---|---|---------------------|------------------|---|
| | | | | | hearing date, the date the judge signed, or the date the order was entered (a stamp on the document). There is inconsistency in which date is being utilized. The State thought they had been clear that workers were supposed to be using the date the judge signed the order. |
| #48 Father's Date of TPR | 42 | 8 | 0 | 0 | In one error case, the reviewer found a deceased date that was not reported to AFCARS (the field was blank). In seven error cases, this field was blank, but the reviewer found a date of TPR. |
| #49 Foster Family Structure 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male | 44 | 2 | 1 | 3 | In one error case, the reviewer found that the family structure was "married couple" instead of "single female." In one error case, this element was blank, but there was a date of birth and race information reported for the first foster caretaker. |
| #50 1 st Foster Caretaker's Birth Year | 43 | 0 | 1 | 6 | |
| #51 2 nd Foster Caretaker's Birth Year | 42 | 1 | 1 | 6 | The AFCARS field was blank and the reviewer found a date. This was a married foster couple. |
| #52 1 st Foster Caretaker's Race | 40 | 0 | 1 | 9 | |

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|--|---|---|---------------------|------------------|---|
| a. American Indian or Alaska Native | | | | | |
| b. Asian | 40 | 0 | 1 | 9 | |
| c. Black or African American | 40 | 0 | 1 | 9 | |
| d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 40 | 0 | 1 | 9 | |
| e. White | 40 | 0 | 1 | 9 | |
| f. Unable to Determine | 40 | 0 | 1 | 9 | |
| #53 1 st Foster Caretaker's Hispanic Origin | 40 | 0 | 1 | 9 | |
| #54 2 nd Foster Caretaker's Race | 41 | 2 | 1 | 6 | In the error cases, the AFCARS field was blank, but element #49 was "married couple." |
| a. American Indian or Alaska Native | | | | | |
| b. Asian | 41 | 2 | 1 | 6 | In the error cases, the AFCARS field was blank, but element #49 was "married couple." |
| c. Black or African American | 41 | 2 | 1 | 6 | In the error cases, the AFCARS field was blank, but element #49 was "married couple." |
| d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 41 | 2 | 1 | 6 | In the error cases, the AFCARS field was blank, but element #49 was "married couple." |
| e. White | 41 | 2 | 1 | 6 | In the error cases, the AFCARS field was blank, but element #49 was "married |

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|--|---|---|---------------------|------------------|---|
| | | | | | couple.” |
| f. Unable to Determine | 41 | 2 | 1 | 6 | In the error cases, the AFCARS field was blank, but element #49 was “married couple.” |
| #55 2 nd Foster Caretaker's Hispanic Origin | 42 | 1 | 0 | 7 | In the error case the AFCARS field was blank, but element #49 was “married couple.” |
| #56 Date of Discharge | 48 | 2 | 0 | 0 | The date of discharge for one of the error cases should have been the child’s day of birth. In one error case the child was discharged, but it was not entered into the system. |
| #58 Reason for Discharge 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s) 2 = Living with Other Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Emancipation 5 = Guardianship 6 = Transfer to Another Agency 7 = Runaway | 48 | 2 | 0 | 0 | In the record that was missing information, the discharge reason was “reunification.” For the child that had aged out, the AFCARS data indicated “reunification” and not “emancipation.” |

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| 8 = Death of Child | | | | | |
| #59 Title IV-E Foster Care | 43 | 3 | 0 | 4 | In three of the error cases, the response should have been "applies" instead of "does not apply." |
| #60 Title IV-E Adoption | 45 | 1 | 0 | 4 | In the error cases, the response should have been "applies" instead of "does not apply." |
| #61 Title IV-A AFDC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | |
| #62 Title IV-D Child Support | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | |
| #63 Title XIX Medicaid | 35 | 8 | 3 | 4 | In six of the error cases, the response should have been "applies" instead of "does not apply." |
| #64 SSI | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | |
| #65 None of the Above | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | |
| #66 Monthly Amount | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | In the majority of records, this field was reported with zero amount. |

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| #4 State Agency Involvement 1 = Yes 2 = No | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #5 Child Date of Birth | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #6 Child Sex 1 = Male 2 = Female | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #7 Child Race | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| a. American Indian or Alaska Native | | | | | |
| b. Asian | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| c. Black or African American | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| e. White | 22 | 1 | 0 | 0 | White was an additional race that was not reported. |
| f. Unable to Determine | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #8 Child Hispanic Origin 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

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| #9 Has Agency Determined Special Needs | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #10 Primary Basis for Determining Special Needs 0 = Not Applicable 1 = Racial/Original Background 2 = Age 3 = Membership in a Sibling Group 4 = Medical Conditions or Mental, Physical or Emotional Disabilities 5 = Other | 21 | 0 | 2 | 0 | In the error cases, it was not clear from the reviewers' notes whether they found an additional basis for special needs or that what they noted should have been the primary reason. |
| #11 Mental Retardation | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #12 Visually/Hearing Impaired | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #13 Physically Disabled | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #14 Emotionally Disturbed | 22 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| #15 Other Diagnosed Condition | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #16 Mother's Birth Year | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #17 Father's Birth Year | 22 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| #18 Mother Married at Time of Birth | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

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| 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine | | | | | |
| #19 Date of Mother's TPR | 18 | 4 | 0 | 1 | In the error cases, the date found by the reviewers was earlier than the date reported in AFCARS. The reviewer noted the date the hearing occurred. |
| #20 Date of Father's TPR | 18 | 3 | 0 | 2 | In one error case, the date was missing in AFCARS, but the reviewer found a date. In the other cases, the date found by the reviewer was earlier than what was reported. The reviewer noted the date the hearing occurred. |
| #21 Date Adoption Legalized | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #22 Adoptive Family Structure 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #23 Adoptive Mother's Year of Birth | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #24 Adoptive Father's Year of Birth | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #25 Adoptive Mother's Race | 20 | 3 | 0 | 0 | In the error cases, this was an additional race that was not reported. |

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| a. American Indian or Alaska Native | | | | | |
| b. Asian | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| c. Black or African American | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| e. White | 22 | 1 | 0 | 0 | In the error case, this was an additional race that was not reported. |
| f. Unable to Determine | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #26 Adoptive Mother's Hispanic Origin | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #27 Adoptive Father's Race | 21 | 2 | 0 | 0 | In the error cases, this was an additional race that was not reported. |
| a. American Indian or Alaska Native | | | | | |
| b. Asian | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| c. Black or African American | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| e. White | 22 | 1 | 0 | 0 | In the error case, this was an additional race that was not reported. |
| f. Unable to Determine | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #28 Adoptive Father's Hispanic Origin | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #29 Relationship of | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

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| Adoptive Parent to Child - Stepparent | | | | | |
| #30 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Relative | 22 | 1 | 0 | 0 | This was an additional relationship that should have been reported in AFCARS as "applies." |
| #31 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Foster Parent | 20 | 3 | 0 | 0 | In the error cases, this was an additional relationship that should have been reported in AFCARS as "applies." |
| #32 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Non-Relative | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #33 Child Was Placed from 1 = Within State 2 = Another State 3 = Another Country | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #34 Child Was Placed by 1 = Public Agency 2 = Private Agency 3 = Tribal Agency 4 = Independent Person 5 = Birth Parent | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| #35 Receiving Monthly Subsidy | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

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|-------------------------|---|---|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| #36 Monthly Amount | 22 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| #37 Adoption Assistance | 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |