

## Social Service Information System (SSIS) Siblings Screen help text

The Siblings tab in the Continuous Placement folder under the Permanency node includes information for worker verification before submission to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). Data elements to be collected and submitted are:

- **Total number of siblings.** Report the total number of siblings of the child. A sibling to the child is his or her brother or sister by biological, legal, or marital connection.
- **Siblings in foster care.** Report the number of siblings of the child who are in foster care as defined in Code Federal Regulations § 1355.20. A sibling to the child is his or her brother or sister by biological, legal, or marital connection.
- **Siblings in the same living arrangement.** Report the number of siblings of the child who are in the same living arrangement as the child, on the last day of the report period. A sibling to the child is his or her brother or sister by biological, legal, or marital connection.

SSIS will report this information based on the sibling information entered in Relationships, and on the Continuous Placement and Placement/Location/Absence information entered for siblings. When caseworkers regularly verify information is entered correctly, validity and reliability of data is increased.

This guide defines and clarifies each section in this screen. The purpose of the Siblings tab is to verify and ensure data displayed is correct. The only field on this screen that needs to be answered is the **Last Reviewed Date**. This is a required field; users can update the Last Reviewed Date any time. Changes to sibling relationships must be made on the Relationship screen. Changes to a sibling's Continuous Placement is made by navigating to the sibling's Person > Permanency > Continuous Placement folder.

For additional information, the Analysis of Siblings in Placement report can be referenced in Tools > General Reports > Placement. Note that this is a separate report that is generated in SSIS that lists current active siblings in placement. This does not include inactive sibling relationships and is different from the "All siblings" screen below.

Below is information on each section.

### All Siblings

This section displays all of the child's active and inactive sibling relationships entered in the SSIS **Relationship** screen. Enter all maternal and paternal siblings, including possible siblings where their father is an alleged father, and adult siblings.

Sibling is defined as one of two or more individuals who have one or both parents in common through blood, marriage, or adoption. This includes siblings as defined by the child's tribal code or custom. Sibling also includes an individual who would have been considered a sibling but for a termination of parental rights of one or both parents, suspension of parental rights under tribal code, or other disruption of parental rights, such as death of a parent. [45 Code of Federal Regulations, 1355.44 and Minn. Stat., section 260C.007, subd. 32]

When a child is placed in foster care who has a sibling, they have the right to be placed in a foster home with their siblings, when possible and when in the best interest of each sibling to sustain family relationships. [Minn. Stats. 260C.008 and 260C.212, subd. 2 (b)(9)] Agencies have a duty to ensure that reasonable efforts are made to include culturally appropriate services in children's best interest, health, safety, and must be of paramount concern. [Minn. Stat. 260.012]

If relationships are entered correctly, **all siblings** will display in this screen for all active and inactive relationships. Make any needed changes on the Relationship screen. Include all siblings, even those who are the placement responsibility of another agency (county/tribe/state) or not in placement. Agencies must determine how to build and preserve sibling bonds, including siblings they have not developed relationships with, and relationships that may be inactive in the child's best interest. For example, the child may consider children of former step-parent/s to be siblings.

Explanation of fields:

- Name (Person 1) – the name of the child/youth being viewed.
- Relationship – Child's sibling relationship to the child/youth being viewed.
- Name (Person 2) – the name/s of sibling/s.
- Status – child's status of relationship
  - **Active** – child's relationship with their sibling(s) is current.  
Any relationship where a child is related by blood, marriage and adoption. In addition, an agency is to determine and preserve a sibling bond if a child considers the relationship current. This is to be based on a child's relationship to their sibling/s.
  - **Inactive** – the relationship is not current. For example, if a sibling passed away.
- Inactive Date – the date a relationship became inactive, for example, siblings date of death.
- Inactive Reason – the reason a relationship became inactive.

### **Siblings in Open Continuous Placements**

This section displays information entered in the **Continuous Placement** screen. It **only displays** siblings that the current agency (county/tribe) has placement responsibility for, and are in a current open continuous placement. Once a continuous placement is discharged, it will no longer display. Once all Continuous Placements are closed for all siblings, the grid will be blank. Make any needed changes in the Continuous Placement screen for identified sibling/s.

Explanation of fields:

- Name – displays the name of the child/youth and sibling/s
- DOB – displays the date of birth
- Age – displays current age
- Start Date – displays start date of the current continuous placement episode
- Primary Permanency Plan – displays active primary permanency plan for the continuous placement

- Worker – displays the primary caseworker for workgroup selected on the most recent placement/location/absence that falls within the continuous placement dates.

### **Last Reviewed Date**

**This field is required.** Caseworkers verify that all known sibling relationships were entered, or there are no known siblings as of the Last Reviewed Date. A new review is required every six months from last date of review while a Continuous Placement remains open.

If there has not been a review within the past six months from the last date of review, a data clean-up error will occur to verify that information in this screen is accurate. The data clean-up message will continue to display for up to 370 days after a continuous placement ends, if a Continuous Placement was open for at least 30 days.