



TEXAS
**Department of Family
and Protective Services**

Luggage Supply and Distribution For Transport of the Personal
Belongings of a Foster Child

House Bill 3765

88th Texas Legislature

September 1, 2024

House Bill 3765 - Luggage Supply and Distribution For Transport of the Personal Belongings of a Foster Child

Executive Summary

Texas Family Code 264.1078 requires the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to provide an annual report illustrating the number of times a trash bag was used to transport a foster child's personal belongings and the reasons the department failed to provide the child with appropriate luggage; and the department's supply inventory and inventory management practices for the luggage supply maintained.

Annual Data:

Table 1 below reflects the annual data for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY '24), from September 2023 till August 22nd.

Table 1

Data shows the Number of Times a Trash Bag was used to transport a foster child's personal belongings

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of Times a Trash bag was used only | 62 |
|---|----|

Common Reasons a Trash bag was used:

- Thirty nine instances the caseworker did not provide luggage at time of removal or placement move.
- Five instances where the parents brought belongings for the children in trash bags and the worker was not informed ahead of time to provide luggage.
- Three instances where an emergency removal occurred; the caseworker did not have time to transfer the child's belongings into a piece of luggage.
- Three instances where the discharging placement transported the child with their items in trash bags.
- Two instances where a child was released from juvenile detention with their items in a trash bag.
- Two instances where a child's dirty/wet clothes were placed in a trash bag.
- Two instances where a facility/shelter provided belongings in a trash bag; caseworker did not transfer those over to a piece of luggage.
- Two instances where child was not cooperating and refusing luggage. The focus was on safely transporting to the new placement.
- One instance where the discharging placement packed the child's belongings in trash bags and there was not sufficient time to transfer to luggage.
- One instance where the discharging placement packed the child's belongings in trash bags but luggage was previously supplied.
- One instance where the discharging placement would not allow the caseworker to enter the home while she child's clothing was being packed.
- One instance where the child was discharged from an out of state placement who provided trash bags. The department immediately provided luggage upon her return to Texas.

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Supply Inventory

Table 2 below shows the current supply of Luggage for DFPS and SSCC as of July 31, 2024.

Table 2

Year to date numbers showing the current supply of Luggage Purchased and Donated to DFPS and SSCC

| DFPS Purchased | SSCC Purchased | Donated to DFPS and SSCC |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 7,100 | 20 | 4826 |

Inventory Management

DFPS identified storage space in each region where luggage is being stored. Staff have 24/7 access to the luggage statewide. Staff may also use their local Rainbow Rooms to access luggage supply. The Faith Based Community Engagement (FBCE) team and regional staff maintain an active inventory of all available luggage and order luggage when applicable.

System Improvement/Data Changes

From August 2023 thru May 2024, an e-mailbox was used to track self reporting from the field when a trash bag was used to transport a child's belongings. 27 instances were identified when a trash bag was used to transport a child's belongings.

On May 2, 2024 IMPACT was updated to assist with tracking instances a trash bag was used to transport a child's belongings. 35 instances were identified for use of a trash bag.