Adoption and Foster Care

AFCARS

Analysis and Reporting System

**Technical Bulletin #1
ACF Electronic Data
Transmission**

REVISED: March, 2000[1]

The purpose of this technical bulletin is to provide information on the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) electronic data transfer (EDT) methods, types, and characteristics.

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[1] Initial issuance date June 30, 1994 as Technical Bulletin #4.

I. Background

As of October 1, 1997, operation, maintenance, and support services for AFCARS were relocated to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Computer Center in Bethesda, Maryland. The NIH is the new CONNECT:Direct (formerly Network Data Mover - NDM) HUB and KERMIT site for AFCARS electronic data file transfer for the States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Effective September 30, 1997 the ACF National Computer Center in Baltimore, Maryland, closed due to mandatory Federal computer consolidation.

II. General Information

CONNECT:Direct

States that will use CONNECT:Direct for their electronic data file transfer are to submit a CONNECT:Direct registration request to ACF. This request should contain the following information: VTAM application id, VTAM network id, and CONNECT:Direct node id. States are provided with the information necessary to set up their connection and transmit their AFCARS data file to NIH. The Federal AFCARS will transmit report files to the State via CONNECT:Direct. The purpose of this is to ensure that the communications link is established and tested and that data/report file transmission to/from ACF can be successfully completed.

KERMIT

States that will use KERMIT for their electronic file transfer are to submit a KERMIT registration request to ACF stating their need to use KERMIT. ACF will provide the software to the State to install at the PC. The PC should have an internal modem or be connected to an external modem. The software has a customized .TAK file that the State will need to make certain changes to, such as inserting the filename of the data file being transmitted.

The State will execute the KERMIT software that makes the connection to the NIH computer center and upload the data file, as well as download the report files.

III. Electronic Data Transfer Methods and Characteristics

The following table lists the electronic data transmission characteristics of both CONNECT:Direct and KERMIT electronic data transfer methods that can be used when transmitting AFCARS data files to the NIH computer center. ACF strongly encourages all States to upgrade their C:D software to a HUB to electronically transmit their AFCARS data files direct to the NIH computer center.

ELECTRONIC DATA TRANSFER (EDT) METHODS	EDT TYPES	EDT CHARACTERISTICS
CONNECT:DIRECT formerly Network Data Mover - NDM (Sterling Commerce)	Mainframe to Mainframe	Transmission Signaling Speed: 9600 BAUD and 56KB NIH is a network HUB and is offering technical support for this preferred mode of data transmission for ACF systems. Most efficient means of electronic data transmission to ACF systems. States must upgrade from a SPOKE to a HUB for **direct transmission** to NIH.
KERMIT (Personal Computer Software)	Personal computer to Mainframe	This EDT may be used only by Territories and States that do not have direct access to CONNECT:Direct. Transmission Signaling Speed: 4800, 9600 and 19.2K, 38.4K, 57.6K BAUD

If additional information is needed, contact the ACF Office of Information Services at (202) 401-1462.