

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

July 22, 2015

M E M O R A N D U M

<p><u>What's Inside:</u> Large Family Resource Homes</p>

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, PROGRAM MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS

FROM: TIM DECKER, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: LARGE FAMILY RESOURCE HOMES

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce a resource home vendor type, Large Family Resource Home, LFRH.

Per the Council on Accreditation, resource homes are to have no more than five (5) children including foster youth in the custody of the Children's Division and their own children up to 18 years of age. The Children's Division, in collaboration with a work group including approved foster family group home providers, has developed a model for large families to provide parenting and foster care services to more than five children in the home.

Licensing of Foster Family Homes regulation [13 CSR35-60.020](#) allows for the maximum placement of 6 children in a resource home. Resource homes shall not exceed the number of children in the home as outlined in the licensing regulations, however there may be times when placement may be necessary to meet the needs of the child. Homes exceeding the licensing rules may be granted a temporary exception for the following reasons:

- To accommodate a sibling group
- To accommodate a minor mother and child family group
- To accommodate a temporary placement
- To ensure continuity of care if the child(ren) was previously placed with the resource provider

To request an exception, staff should complete the Placement Exception Form, CD-201. Additional foster youth shall not be placed in these homes until such time the home is in compliance with licensing rules.

A LFRH is a licensed foster home of two parents who are committed to caring for a large family and have completed a mutual assessment process with a trained resource development worker. Approval must be received to provide twenty-four (24) hour care for seven to ten (7-10) total children in the home including foster youth in the custody of the Children's Division as well as their own children up to 18 years of age. The primary purpose of approving a LFRH is to safely keep sibling groups together.

The approval process for a LFRH requires that the applicants be a Missouri-licensed two-parent resource home with four (4) previous consecutive years' experience. They must be in good standing with the division and the division's contractors as supported by submitted written references. The two parent household is assessed for both their skill level to parent multiple children and the home's physical capacity for multiple children placed in the home.

The Large Family Resource Home policy includes:

- qualifications for approval
- training requirements
- required written recommendations
- physical standards including a local fire safety inspection
- required support system
- written supervision back up plan
- capacity limitations
- home Assessment and renewal requirements

No foster youth are to be removed from the currently approved foster family group homes. No additional foster youth may be placed in a currently approved foster family group home until the home is compliant with the capacity limitations.

The Large Family Resource Home vendor type is effective upon publication of this memorandum.

NECESSARY ACTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division staff. 2. Review new Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below. 3. Review new Children's Division forms as indicated below. 4. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to: 	
PDS CONTACT Elizabeth Tattershall 573-522-1191 Elizabeth.Tattershall@dss.mo.gov	PROGRAM MANAGER Amy Martin 573-751-3171 Amy.L.Martin@dss.mo.gov
CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS Large Family Resource Home, Section 6 Chapter 15 Various sections term "group home" replaced with Large Family Resource Home	

<p><u>FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS</u> Large Family Resource Home Assessment Checklist, CD-28 Fire and Safety Assessment for Large Family Resource Homes, CD-30</p>
<p>REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES N/A</p>
<p>RELATED STATUTE N/A</p>
<p>ADMINISTRATIVE RULE N/A</p>
<p>COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS N/A</p>
<p>CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR) N/A</p>
<p>PROTECTIVE FACTORS N/A Parental Resilience Social Connections Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development Concrete Support in Times of Need Social and Emotional Competence of Children</p>
<p>FACES REQUIREMENTS Continue to use the FG placement type code. A Systems Change Request has been made for a new placement type code to replace FG. When the revision is made, a notification will be sent out.</p>