

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

## CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

July 11, 2019

## M E M O R A N D U M

TO: CHILDREN'S DIVISION AND CONTRACTED STAFF

FROM: DAVID B. KURT, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT NATIONAL MODEL FOSTER FAMILY HOME LICENSING STANDARDS

## DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to share information regarding Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) as it pertains to licensing foster family resource homes. The FFPSA includes identification of reputable model licensing standards with respect to licensing of foster family homes as defined in section 472(c)(1) of the Social Security Act.

[National Model foster Family Home Licensing Standards](#), issued by the Children's Bureau, cover the essential components of licensing a foster family home to ensure the applicant has the capacity to care for a child in foster care, and the physical home of the family is appropriate and safe for a child in foster care.

Missouri Children's Division policy and Foster Family Home Licensing Regulations are compliant with most of the changes set forth in the National Modeling Foster Family Home Licensing Standards. The following are the standards that have been revised or added to Children's Division policy in response to the national standards:

- The instructions to the CD-152 have been enhanced to provide more detailed instructions for completion and approval
- The following information is to be provided by the applicant for completion of the home assessment;
  - mental health history for all household members including history of drug or alcohol abuse or treatment for all household members captured on the CW-215.
  - safety requirements for swimming pools
    - A barrier on all sides
    - Access to the pool must have their methods of access through the barrier equipped with a safety device, such as a bolt lock
    - Swimming pools must be equipped with a life saving device, such as a ring buoy

- If the swimming pool cannot be emptied after each use, the pool must have a working pump and filtering system.
  - Hot tubs and spas must have safety covers that are locked when not in use.
    - maintenance of first aid supplies
- Revision of Resource Parent Acknowledgement and Assurances, CD-108, regarding they will not smoke in the home, in the vehicle used to transport a foster child or in the presence of children in foster care. Also, they will assure that they will not allow any guest in their home or in their vehicle transporting a foster children, or in the presence of a foster child to smoke.
- The amount of children living in the resource home is a maximum of 6. The exception to this maximum is the elevated needs level a, level b and medical which have only a maximum of 4 children in the home with only 2 with the status of elevated needs.
- Applicants must complete pre-licensing training and be certified on first aid (including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for the ages of the children in placement) and medication administration. The CPR/First Aide training is provided by a trainer awarded the CPR/First Aide contract with the state of Missouri. If a resource parent has a current certificate of completion of CPR certification, they may provide the certificate to the resource licensing worker to support their training requirement.

CPR/ First Aide training certification is required for each license approval renewal. It is not an allowed waived training requirement for relative resource providers.

- The resource home will have at least one toilet, sink and tub or shower in safe operating condition.
- The temperature of any water heaters in the resource home must be set in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.
- Air guns, BB guns, hunting slingshots and other projectile weapons must be stored in an inoperative condition in a locked area inaccessible to children. All ammunition, arrows or projectiles for such weapons must be stored in a locked space separate from the weapons.
- Each child in foster care must have a sleeping space with an individual bed or crib, mattress and appropriate for the child's needs and age and similar to other household members.

Licensing regulations will be amended to include:

- The maximum of children living in the home of 6, 13 CSR 35-60.020
- Reference to household members instead of family members ,13 CSR 35-60.030
- Clarification of immunizations, 13 CSR 35-60.030
- Disclosure by the applicants regarding substance abuse history and treatment. 13 CSR 35-60.030
- Use of illegal substance, alcohol abuse, abuse of legal prescription and no prescription drugs 13 CSR 35-60.030
- Smoking in the presence of children in foster care 13 CSR 35-60.050(2)
- At least one toilet, sink and tub or shower in safe operating condition, temperature of water heater 13 CSR 35-60.40 (1)
- Weapon storage revisions 13 CSR 35-60.040(4)

- Sleeping standards 13 CSR 35-60.040(2)
- Clarifications of exclusionary criminal convictions, 13 CSR 35-60.090

<b>NECESSARY ACTION</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division staff.</li> <li>2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below.</li> <li>3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:</li> </ol>	
<b>PDS CONTACT</b> Elizabeth Tattershall 573-522-1191 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth.Tattershall@dss.mo.gov">Elizabeth.Tattershall@dss.mo.gov</a>	<b>MANAGER CONTACT</b> Amy Martin 573-526-8040 <a href="mailto:Amy.L.Martin@dss.mo.gov">Amy.L.Martin@dss.mo.gov</a>
<b>CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Guide for Resource Home Assessment, 6.3.1.3</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Resource Provider Family Assessment Recording Outline, 6.3.8</a></li> </ul>	
<b>FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Resource Parent Acknowledgment and Assurances Form, CD-108</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Non-Safety Licensing Standard Waivers for Licensing of Relative Resource Providers Homes, CD-152, Instructions</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Foster/Adoptive Household Member Physical and Mental Health Report, CW-215</a></li> </ul>	
<b>REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES</b>	
N/A	
<b>RELATED STATUTE</b>	
N/A	