

Practice Alert



Weapons in Resource Provider Homes

Children Division and contracted agency Resource Development Workers have the important role of assuring licensed homes are safe for foster children. There continues to be circumstances and media coverage with the topic of gun ownership.

Guidelines for staff are included in regulation [13 CSR 35-60.050 \(4\) \(A\) \(C\)](#). In our licensed homes, Resource Development Workers are to view any weapons and their storage for the approval of licensing a family home to provide foster care services:

In section (A) any and all firearms and ammunition shall be stored so as to be inaccessible to children. Foster parents shall store ammunition separately from any weapons. Firearms and ammunition shall be stored in locked areas or cabinets with keys secured so as to be inaccessible to children. In section (C) weapons storage shall be made available for external viewing by Children's Division staff in order to assure weapons are inaccessible to children.

As Resource Development Workers complete the regulation requirement, it is important to consider language in [571.500.1 RSMo](#) which states no State Agency or department, or contractor or agent working for the state, shall construct, enable by providing or sharing records to, maintain, participate in, or develop, or cooperate with or enable the state or federal government in developing a database or record of the number or type of firearms, ammunition, or firearms accessories that an individual possesses.

To support that Children's Division and our contractors are not keeping a database as prohibited in this statute, the worker shall not require the resource provider or applicant to sign a document regarding weapons in the household or the weapons the provider owns, including but not limited to a completion of a list of weapons or signing a document that the applicants will be in compliance with Chapter 60 rules for licensing a foster home.

Policy revisions are located in [Child Welfare Manual Section 6 Chapter 3 Subsection 1](#), [Section 6 Chapter 3 Attachment C](#) and [Section 6 Chapter 3 Subsection 5](#).

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