

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

June 8, 2020

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: CHILDREN'S DIVISION AND CONTRACTED STAFF
FROM: REGINALD MCELHANNON, INTERIM DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF SAFETY IN RESOURCE HOMES-WAIVER
CONSIDERATION

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce revisions to the Relative Resource Home Non-Safety Licensing Standard Waiver Process including additions to the Approval Form, CD-152, to be used for relatives and the CD-157 to be used for non-relative resource homes. With these changes, approval for placement must be granted by central office within the timeframes provided.

These changes are being made in response to observed safety concerns, the recent occurrence of critical events, and the need to identify at time of placement supports needed by resource families to maintain stability of placements and increase retention of resource families.

Relative Resource Home Non-Safety Licensing Standard Waiver Approval Form, CD-152

The CD-152 has been revised to include additional required information for consideration of approval to place a child or children in relative resource homes that exceed the following capacity limits:

- Placement of children over the maximum of six (6) children in a resource home;
- Placement of more than two (2) children under age (2) and more than four (4) under age five (5);
- Placement of more than four (4) children in a home if one of the children requires elevated needs care;
- Placement of more than two (2) children requiring elevated needs care

The revisions include the addition of detailed information regarding the relative caregivers' parenting skill level, ability to assure safety, and identification of needed supports to maintain stability of placements.

Prior to placing a child/ren in a relative resource home that will exceed the capacity limits, workers shall:

- Assess relative caregivers' parenting skill level and ability to assure safety of these additional children.
- Identify all supports and resources needed to meet the needs of the child(ren) and relative caregivers in maintaining safety and stability of placement.
- Assess all vulnerabilities of the child(ren) due to age, developmental disabilities, complex medical or behavioral needs, mental health, or other special needs as a result of their trauma history.
- Consider factors which may impact the ability of the relative to meet each child's overall care such as; financial hardship, availability of child care, reliable and available transportation, caregiver health, employment and existing family stressors.
- Discuss and document in detail each of these factors, on the CD-152

Effective with this memorandum, the CD-152 is to be sent to Central Office for review and consideration of approval for placement. Approval must be obtained prior to placement of any additional children in the home or within 3 business days if emergency placement was approved by a supervisor or above. Central Office will respond to waiver consideration within 3 business days of receipt.

Resource Home Capacity Exception Approval Form, CD-157

The Resource Home Capacity Exception Approval Form, CD-157 was introduced in July 2019 for consideration and approval to allow licensed resource homes to exceed capacity limits. The only exceptions to be considered for approval include the following:

- To allow a parenting youth in foster care to remain with the child of the parenting youth;
- To allow siblings to remain together;
- To allow a child with an established meaningful relationship with the family to remain with the family;
- To allow a family with special training or skills to provide care to a child who has a severe disability;
- To allow a resource home to care for more than two (2) children under the age of two;
- To allow a resource home to care for more than four (4) children under the age of five;

- To allow an Elevated Needs resource home to care for more than four (4) total children;
- To allow an Elevated Needs resource home to care for more than two (2) children with elevated needs

The form also includes several required details to be included when asking for consideration to exceed these limits.

With this memorandum, the form requires Central Office approval. After the form is completed and signed by all required parties, it must be sent to Central Office for review and consideration for approval. Central Office approval must be obtained prior to placement of any additional children in the home.

<p>NECESSARY ACTION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division staff. 2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below. 3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to: 	
<p>PDS CONTACT Sherry Moller 573-522-9306 Sherry.L.Moller@dss.mo.gov</p> <p>Elizabeth Tattershall 573-522-1191 Elizabeth.Tattershall@dss.mo.gov</p>	<p>MANAGER CONTACT Amy Martin 573-526-8040 Amy.L.Martin@dss.mo.gov</p>
<p>CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS 6.3.1.3 Guide for Conducting Resource Provider Family Assessments 6.16.3 Relative Resource Home- Agency Arranged Relative Foster Care 6.16.6 Relative Resource Home-Renewal/Reassessment of Relative Foster Home</p>	
<p>FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS Relative Resource Home Non-Safety Licensing Standard Waiver Approval, CD-152 Resource Home Capacity Exception Approval, CD-157</p>	
<p>REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES N/A</p>	
<p>RELATED STATUTE (List or put N/A if not applicable.)</p>	