

PA26-RD-02

DATE: March 5, 2026

TO: Children's Division and Foster Care Case Management

FROM: Sara Smith, Children's Division Director

SUBJECT: **Bed Capacity in FACES**

OVERVIEW:

In February, Missouri joined the Administration for Children and Families "One Home for Every Child" PIP Pilot. As part of this pilot, Children's Division will report monthly data to the Children's Bureau. This data will include the total number of children in care, total number of foster homes (including licensed relative and foster homes as well as unlicensed relative caregivers who have a child placed with them), and the total capacity (number of beds) available.

The purpose of this practice alert is to provide guidance and clarification for all resource development staff regarding bed capacity for relative and foster homes. It is paramount that there is accurate information entered into FACES for bed capacity because this is how data will be pulled and provided to the Children's Bureau.

Regulation states the following regarding capacity:

13 CSR 35-60.020 Capacity of Foster Homes

(1) The maximum number of children in a foster home shall not exceed six (6). Each foster child shall be counted as one (1) placement. The children of the foster parent are counted within the maximum number of children in the foster home until they reach the age of eighteen (18) years.

(2) Foster parent(s) shall not provide care for more than two (2) children under age two (2) and no more than four (4) children under the age of five (5) unless necessary to accommodate a sibling group on a temporary basis.

(3) The maximum capacity of homes providing care for youth with elevated needs as defined in 13 CSR 35-60.070 and youth with elevated medical needs as defined in 13 CSR 35-60.100 shall not exceed four (4) placements with no more than two (2) placements of youth with elevated needs.

As a reminder adopted children or children under legal guardianship count as children of the foster parent.

Resource Development Workers and Supervisors should ensure all homes are reviewed and updated to

accurately reflect bed capacity in FACES by March 30, 2026. Bed capacity should reflect the total number of actual beds the home has available for children in foster care, even if that bed is occupied. Capacity should never exceed 6.

Examples:

A foster home has no children living in the home as regular household members. They are licensed for a total capacity of 6. If four children are placed in the home, the total capacity in FACES should still reflect 6. The total placed in FACES will reflect 4.

A foster home has two children living in the home as regular household members. They may only be licensed for up to a total capacity of 4. If four children are placed in the home, the total capacity in FACES should still reflect 4. The total placed in FACES will reflect 4.

A relative home has 4 children living in the home as regular household members. They are licensed to care for their 3 grandchildren with an approved capacity waiver. They should only be licensed for a total capacity of 3. The total capacity in FACES should reflect 3. The total placed in FACES will reflect 3.

A foster home has no children living in the home as regular household members. They are licensed for a total capacity of 6. A sibling group of 8 is placed in the home with an approved capacity waiver. The total capacity in FACES should still reflect 6. The total placed in FACES will reflect 8.

A foster home has two children living in the home as regular household members. They are licensed for a total capacity of 4. They adopt two children. The capacity in FACES should be updated to be a capacity of 2.

For questions or concerns, please contact:

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This Practice Alert remains effective unless the current policy has been rescinded or revised with contradictory guidance.

CHILD WELFARE MANUAL POLICY AND COLLATERAL DOCUMENTATION:

[Missouri Secretary of State: Code of State Regulations](#)