



FAMILY FOSTER HOME LICENSURE & NON-RELATED KINSHIP

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FOSTER CARE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE - OCTOBER 20, 2020



A stylized silhouette of a family consisting of a man, a woman, and two children, all holding hands. The figures are rendered in a light blue color against a darker blue background. The man is on the right, the woman is in the center, and two children are on the left. The overall composition is simple and symbolic of family unity.

FAMILY FOSTER HOME LICENSURE

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- 1 Family Foster Home (FFH) identifies and selects a sponsoring Child Placing Agency (CPA)

The FFH can contact CPAs directly, or through DCF or the Children's Alliance of Kansas (CAK)



FAMILY FOSTER HOME LICENSURE

- 1 Family Foster Home (FFH) identifies and selects a sponsoring Child Placing Agency (CPA)



The FFH goes through orientation with its chosen sponsoring CPA

→ Policy/procedure

→ Prelicensure training

- 1) TIPS MAPP/Deciding Together
- 2) Medication Administration
- 3) First Aid
- 4) Universal Precautions

→ CPA completes home visit

- 1) Regulation compliance
- 2) Family Assessment interviews

→ Other tasks

- 1) Fingerprints
- 2) Health assessments
- 3) TB tests
- 4) Immunization records
- 5) Pet vaccination records

FAMILY FOSTER HOME LICENSURE

- 2 CPA submits application materials to DCF electronically



→ Application information

→ Background checks

→ Fingerprint results

FAMILY FOSTER HOME LICENSURE

3 DCF assigns licensing surveyor

→ Surveyor contacts FFH, then schedules and completes onsite survey within 15 days of assignment



→ Surveyor determines compliance or non-compliance with regulations

COMPLIANT



LICENSED

NON-COMPLIANT



**5 DAYS TO BECOME COMPLIANT OR
SUBMIT PLANS FOR COMPLIANCE**

FAMILY FOSTER HOME LICENSURE

4 License issuance → child placement

REQUIRED FOR ISSUANCE

- Survey completion
- Verification of compliance
- Background checks & fingerprinting



Average time for license issuance is 3 business days upon verification of compliance.

**DURING
COVID-19**

If survey was completed virtually, a temporary permit may be issued, and an onsite visit must occur within 90 days.

Once the license is issued, the child(ren) may be placed in the family foster home.

FAMILY FOSTER HOME LICENSURE

5 Foster parent training



→ Each foster parent must complete 8 hours of training per year.

- 2 of those hours must be instructor-led
(available virtually during COVID-19)



DCF contracts with the Children's Alliance of Kansas (CAK) to coordinate and offer training opportunities for foster parents across the state.

→ CAK directly offers classes on a variety of topics and works in partnership with CPAs to provide training

→ All potential foster or adoptive families must complete a pre-service course, either TIP-MAPP (Trauma Informed Partnering for Safety and Permanence Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting) or Deciding Together

→ All potential foster parents must also complete:

- Universal Precautions

- Medication Administration
- First Aid/CPR

→ CAK and CPAs offer additional classes on topics such as:

- Child development
- The effects of trauma
- Ethical relationships in child welfare
- Stress management
- Mental health
- Culturally specific hair care

FAMILY FOSTER HOME LICENSURE

6 Annual onsite visit

→ Scheduled and conducted by DCF licensing surveyor



- A. Verify compliance with regulations
- B. Verify required records are on file
- C. Verify required training hours were completed

FAMILY FOSTER HOME LICENSURE

7 Complaint investigations



- Interviews conducted with foster parent, foster child(ren), sponsoring CPA staff, case management staff, and any other collateral contacts
- Unannounced onsite visit to verify compliance
(if non-compliant, FFH/CPA have 5 days to submit corrections or plan of corrections for returning to compliance)

Complaints come through multiple pathways: Kansas Protection Report Center, critical incidents, direct reports to DCF licensing (by phone, email, in-person, or customer service ticket).

A photograph of a man with a beard and a young child smiling together, overlaid with a blue filter. The man is on the left, looking towards the child on the right. The child is smiling broadly. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting.

FAMILY FOSTER HOME - NON-RELATED KINSHIP

FAMILY FOSTER HOME – NON-RELATED KINSHIP



A non-related kinship (NRKIN) is a person identified as having a relationship with the child or child's family as defined in PPS policy.

NRKIN follows the same process as Family Foster Home Licensure, except that it allows a child to be placed into the home prior to license issuance.

FAMILY FOSTER HOME – NON-RELATED KINSHIP

1 Sponsoring CPA locates NRKIN

→ The CMP division of the CPA gathers information from the family and child(ren) regarding potential relative/kin options



Name-based
background
checks



Walkthrough of
the home



Child is placed

FAMILY FOSTER HOME – NON-RELATED KINSHIP

- 2 Application for licensure submitted to DCF within 14 days of child's placement



→ Application information

→ Background checks

- 3 Temporary permit issued when background checks are clear

→ Valid for 90 days

→ Second temporary permit can be issued for another 90 days

FAMILY FOSTER HOME – NON-RELATED KINSHIP

4 DCF assigns licensing surveyor

→ Surveyor contacts FFH, then schedules and completes onsite survey within 30 days



→ Surveyor determines compliance or non-compliance with regulations

COMPLIANT



LICENSED

NON-COMPLIANT



**5 DAYS TO BECOME COMPLIANT OR
SUBMIT PLANS FOR COMPLIANCE**

FAMILY FOSTER HOME – NON-RELATED KINSHIP

5 License issuance

REQUIRED FOR ISSUANCE

- Verification of compliance
- Completion of prelicensure training



NRKIN must complete prelicensure training and be in full compliance within 180 days to receive a license.

FAMILY FOSTER HOME – NON-RELATED KINSHIP

6 Foster parent training



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(available virtually during COVID-19)

FAMILY FOSTER HOME – NON-RELATED KINSHIP

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FAMILY FOSTER HOME – NON-RELATED KINSHIP

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EXCEPTIONS TO REGULATIONS



- As much as is possible while ensuring that children are safe, DCF strives to work alongside family foster homes to help them achieve licensure
- Exceptions to licensing regulations may be requested
- Exceptions may be granted on a case by case basis if the Secretary determines that

the exception is in the best interest of a child in foster care and the exception does not violate statutory requirements

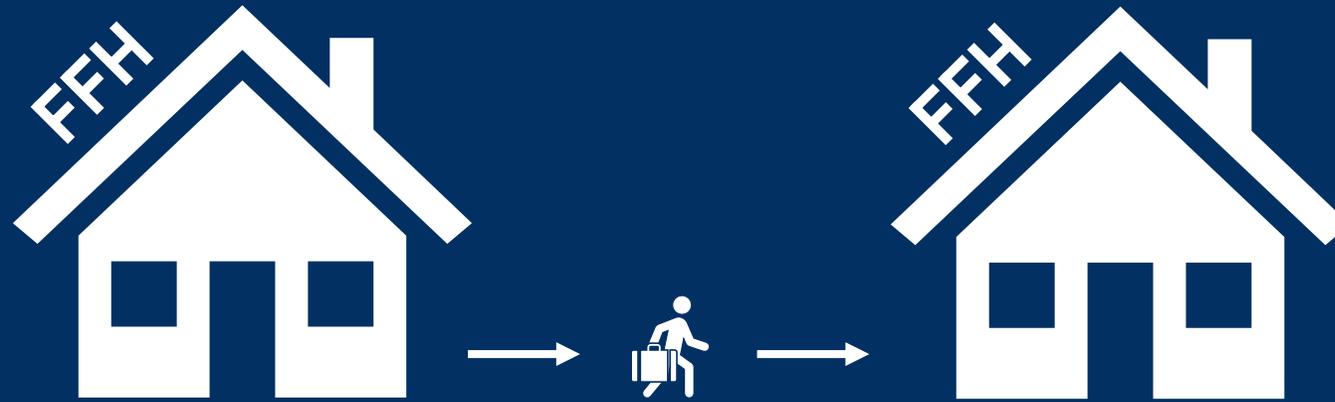
- An exception should identify all information to support the request and document the intent of the regulation is met, and assures health, safety and welfare

RELATIVE PLACEMENTS



- Relatives serving as placement are not required to be licensed, but may choose to become licensed as a family foster home if they desire
- However, Kansas does not currently allow for any regulations to be waived for relative placements, making the licensure process difficult for some relatives
- DCF and agency partners are shifting to a Kin-First perspective which seeks to make every child's first (and ideally only) placement be with kin
- Streamlining the licensure process for relatives will help increase supports and subsidies available for relatives providing care, which will ultimately ensure better placement stability and long-term permanency
- Efforts to accomplish this goal include:
 - Review of existing program and practices
 - Identifying statutory barriers to relative licensure
 - Potentially waiving non-safety regulations for relatives

RESPITE CARE



- Family foster home regulations allow a family to, if they choose, provide short term respite care to foster children
- Children may need respite care as they transition between placements or when a foster parent needs a break
- Short term respite is defined as care for less than 24 hours per week for a child
- Short term respite regulation allows a

- family foster home to exceed their licensed capacity by a sibling group of any size or by 2 children
- For long term respite care (longer than 24 hours), regulation requires the home maintain their licensed capacity
- There is no existing license type specific to a respite facility, any family foster home may choose to accept respite placements

QUESTIONS?

