

**6000 SCOPE**

- 6000.1 The purpose of this chapter of the DCMR is to establish criteria and procedures for licensing foster homes for abused or neglected children.
- 6000.2 This chapter of the DCMR shall apply to:
- (a) Any foster home that is located within the District of Columbia and which serves children in the care and custody of CFSA, including any foster home which is operated by a child-placing agency other than CFSA; and
  - (b) Any CFSA foster home located in another jurisdiction.
- 6000.3 The provisions of 29 DCMR §§ 1639, 1640, 1641, 1644.2 and 1644.3 do not apply to the foster homes to which this chapter of the DCMR applies.
- 6000.4 CFSA is responsible for the implementation of this chapter of the DCMR. Copies of this chapter of the DCMR shall be available from CFSA upon request.
- 6000.5 The Director or his or her designee, upon written application and for good cause, may waive any provision of this chapter for licensing of kin that does not adversely affect child safety.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 54 DCR 7232 (July 27, 2007); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 59 DCR 10669 (September 7, 2012); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6001 RESOURCE PARENT REQUIREMENTS**

6001.1 An agency shall select and maintain as foster parents individuals who have the following characteristics:

- (a) Knowledge of, interest in, and regard for the principles of good child care and understanding of the resource parent's responsibility in providing care for a foster child;
- (b) The willingness to work with CFSA and agency personnel in the best interest of the foster child;
- (c) Maturity and personality characteristics which:
  - (1) Make it possible to provide an emotional climate in which a foster child can benefit during temporary care;
  - (2) Create an atmosphere in which social skills can be enriched;
  - (3) Help a foster child to understand placement in foster care and the child's own feelings about the placement; and
  - (4) Help maintain family ties through regular and consistent family contact in accordance with a foster child's case plan;
- (d) The flexibility to understand and work with lifestyles different from the resource parent's;
- (e) The commitment to building the capacity to value, respect, appreciate, and educate a foster child regarding the child's racial, ethnic, religious, and cultural heritage thereby cultivating a supportive and inclusive home and environment;
- (f) The commitment to building the capacity to understand that it is in the best interest of a foster child to have healthy multiracial experiences;
- (g) The suitability and stamina to meet the demands of caring for growing foster children;
- (h) The willingness to support and encourage a foster child's educational progress, and take an active role by attending school conferences and similar activities whenever possible;

- (i) The ability to give a foster child the needed care, attention, and environment as appropriate to a foster child's age and the foster child's physical, mental, emotional, educational, and developmental needs;
- (j) The ability to provide a nurturing family life and meet the needs of a foster child, notwithstanding any employment or obligations outside the home; and
- (k) Awareness of the way in which a child needs family life to grow and learn, and the ability to provide a foster child with the skills and values which a parent customarily provides.

6001.2 A foster parent shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.

6001.3 A resource parent shall:

- (a) Be in good health as documented by a health examination conducted by a licensed physician or licensed, qualified health care professional within the previous twenty-four (24) months; and
- (b) Have the physical health, mental health, and stamina to care for a foster child as documented by a statement provided by a licensed physician or licensed, qualified health care professional.

6001.4 An adult household member shall be in good health as documented by a health examination conducted by a licensed physician or licensed, qualified health care professional within the previous twenty-four (24) months. The agency may make an exception to this requirement, if:

- (a) The health concern does not pose a risk to the foster child;
- (b) The adult household member shall not be responsible for the care of a foster child; and
- (c) The requirements of 6002.2 are met if the adult household member needs assistance with at least three (3) activities of daily living.

6001.5 If a resource parent or adult household member has symptoms or a history of physical or mental health concerns or has recently been under the care of a licensed physician or health care professional for symptoms or a history of physical or mental health concerns, CFSA or the agency may require the individual to:

- (a) Undergo additional medical examinations of a general or specific nature; and

- (b) Provide a written statement by the examining or treating licensed physician or licensed, qualified health care professional to the effect that the physical or mental health concern problem poses no threat to the foster child.
- 6001.6 A resource parent and all household members shall be free of disease in communicable form, as certified by a licensed physician or licensed, qualified health care professional. Each child in the household shall be in compliance with the immunization requirements of the jurisdiction in which the foster home is located.
- 6001.7 A resource parent shall have sufficient family income to meet the reasonable living needs of his or her own family without relying on foster care board and care payments. The agency shall refer to the current year Poverty Guidelines Computations published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services when determining if a resource parent has sufficient family income to meet the reasonable living needs of his or her own family.
- 6001.8 A criminal records check and a child protection register clearance shall be performed as set forth in §§ 6008 and 6009.
- 6001.9 A resource parent shall possess current infant, child, and adult Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and first aid certifications before being licensed to care for a foster child.
- 6001.10 The CPR and first aid certifications shall be from an organization approved by the agency.
- 6001.11 A resource parent shall have stable housing.
- 6001.12 A resource parent shall work with only one entity at a time, whether public or private, to complete a home study for foster or adoptive care or to provide foster or adoptive care.
- 6001.13 For married couples, cohabitating couples, and couples in a domestic partnership, both individuals shall comply with the requirements of this chapter and be approved to be licensed as resource parents before a foster home is licensed.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 59 DCR 10669 (September 7, 2012); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6002 RESOURCE PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

6002.1 A resource parent shall:

- (a) Provide parental supervision and guidance appropriate to the foster child's age and developmental, physical, emotional, and educational level;
- (b) Provide daily essentials required for the health, comfort, and good grooming of a foster child, including:
  - (1) A nutritionally balanced diet adequate for the foster child's needs in growth and development;
  - (2) Adequate shelter; and
  - (3) Clothing proper for the season that is clean, fits the foster child comfortably, and is appropriate for the foster child's age and gender expression;
- (c) Involve the foster child in household activities, family vacations, and celebrations;
- (d) Establish clear expectations for and limits on behavior, understand and deal with negative behavior in a positive way, and reward good behavior;
- (e) Abide by the rules on discipline and behavior management as set forth in § 6018;
- (f) Encourage and support the foster child's well-being and development through participation in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities;
- (g) Provide, arrange, or coordinate with the agency to provide transportation to and from normal daily activities, including school, appointments, sports, family visitation, social, religious, ethnic, and cultural events, and other appointments as necessary and as set forth in the foster child's case plan;
- (h) Help the foster child cope with the anxiety of being away from his or her family, and promote the child's self-esteem and positive self-image;
- (i) Be sensitive to and respect the foster child's individual needs, tastes, and values, and support the foster child's religious beliefs and cultural customs;

- (j) Participate in and support the foster child's educational process;
- (k) Participate in and support the foster child's mental, physical, and dental health care, and request and maintain a copy of a record from each health care visit;
- (l) Have a plan for the substitute care and supervision of each foster child when the resource parent is absent from the home on a regular basis, such as for employment, by a:
  - (1) Resource parent licensed in the jurisdiction in which substitute care is provided;
  - (2) Day care provider licensed in the jurisdiction in which substitute care is provided;
  - (3) Back-up caregiver approved by the agency; or
  - (4) Extended caregiver approved by the agency;
- (m) Use babysitters:
  - (1) Who are sixteen (16) years of age or older;
  - (2) On an occasional or infrequent basis;
  - (3) For a reasonable amount of time considering the age and level of functioning of the foster child; and
  - (4) For no longer than eight (8) hours at a time without the prior approval of the agency;
- (n) Utilize only substitute caregivers and babysitters in whom the resource parent has confidence that the person can appropriately care for the foster child considering:
  - (1) The age and level of maturity of the babysitter or substitute caregiver;
  - (2) The number of children being cared for by the babysitter or substitute caregiver; and
  - (3) The age and developmental level of the foster child and any other children being cared for by the babysitter or substitute caregiver;

- (o) Maintain the confidentiality of information about the foster child and the foster child's family in accordance with § 6023;
- (p) Transmit information about the foster child or the foster child's family only in accordance with subsection (y)(3) below and § 6023;
- ((q) Notify the agency immediately of any change or anticipated change for the resource parent or within the foster home concerning:
  - (1) Employment;
  - (2) Child care arrangements;
  - (3) Composition of the household;
  - (4) Finances;
  - (5) Residence;
  - (6) Mobile or landline number;
  - (7) Email address;
  - (8) Health status;
  - (9) Relationship status;
  - (10) Sleeping arrangements that may impact any household member including the foster child; or
  - (11) Any other change which may affect the stability of the foster home or of the foster child's placement in the foster home;
- (r) Notify and receive prior approval from the agency for any overnight trips of more than one hundred (100) miles from the District of Columbia involving a foster child;
- (s) Give at least ten (10) business days' notice to the agency when requesting removal of a foster child except in circumstances that are critical to the health and safety of the foster child or other household member;
- (t) Immediately report to CFSA and the agency any suspected incident of child abuse or neglect;

- (u) Notify CFSA and the agency of any criminal charges, investigations, or findings related to any crime alleged to have been committed by the foster parent or a household member;
- (v) Keep the agency aware of the foster child's development and adjustment;
- (w) Participate in decision-making, case-planning, case reviews, and permanency planning for the child in care;
- (x) Work as a team member in assessing a foster child's strengths and needs and in implementing the foster child's case plan;
- (y) A foster parent, in accordance with a foster child's case plan, shall:
  - (1) Assist the agency in maintaining and improving the foster child's relationship with her or his family, and support this relationship by helping with family visits, which may include visits in the foster home;
  - (2) Maintain an attitude of respect and understanding towards the foster child's parents and family;
  - (3) Tell the foster child's parents about events and happenings in the foster child's daily life; and
  - (4) Serve as a role model for the foster child's parents;
- (z) Assist in preparing the foster child to achieve his or her permanency plan and any move from the foster home;
- (aa) Work with the agency to make every effort to avoid placement disruptions;
- (bb) Work with service providers, when appropriate, to ensure the service needs are being met for the foster child;
- (cc) Participate in training required and approved by the agency;
- (dd) Maintain the standards of foster care required by this chapter of the DCMR; and
- (ee) Prohibit smoking in the foster home, in a motor vehicle being used to transport a foster child, or in the presence of the foster child.

- 6002.2 A resource parent may not provide care for an adult household member who needs assistance with at least three (3) activities of daily living unless:
- (a) CFSA has determined in writing that the care of the foster child is not affected; and
  - (b) The care is for either a relative of the resource parent, or a current or former foster child who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, or another adult with whom the resource parent has close personal or emotional ties.
- 6002.3 A resource parent may not provide child day care unless:
- (a) CFSA has determined in writing that the resource parent has the physical and emotional strength to be responsible for the day care of one (1) or more children, in addition to what is needed for the care and supervision of each foster child in the home;
  - (b) CFSA has determined in writing that the foster home has adequate space to care for a foster child in addition to the space utilized for the child day care; and
  - (c) The resource parent is licensed to provide day care in accordance with the applicable jurisdiction's laws and regulations.
- 6002.4 Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to preclude a foster parent from permitting a foster child to visit with the foster parent's family or friends.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 65 DCR 3642 (April 6, 2018); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6003 AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY TO FOSTER PARENT**

6003.1 The following principles and rights are to govern the Agency's relationship with a foster parent.

A foster parent is entitled:

- (a) To be recognized and valued as members of the child welfare team;
- (b) To be treated with dignity, trust, and respect;
- (c) To language translation in accordance with the Language Access Act of 2004;
- (d) To not be subject to discrimination as provided in the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977, as amended;
- (e) To receive a printed copy of this section;
- (f) To report rights violations and complaints without fear of retaliation;
- (g) To receive a written explanation of the process for reporting and resolving rights violations and complaints;
- (h) To a fair hearing if the agency modifies, suspends, converts, revokes, denies, or takes any other action concerning a license or an application for a foster parent license;
- (i) To accurate information about the foster child, including the reason the foster child is in foster care within three (3) business days after placement;
- (j) To medical records, including immunization records, within three (3) business days of placement;
- (k) To be informed of the foster child's permanency plan, to be updated as to the progress of the achievement of that plan, and to be allowed to provide input into the plan;
- (l) To be informed of decisions that impact the foster parent while ensuring the best interests and confidentiality of the foster child and his or her family;
- (m) To be notified at least ten (10) business days prior to a change in placement except in the case of an emergency;

## District of Columbia Municipal Regulations

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- (n) To a fair hearing when a foster child has been removed from the home in accordance with Chapter 59 of the Title 29 DCMR;
- (o) To communicate with professionals who work with a foster child including therapists, physicians, and teachers;
- (p) To support in establishing and developing relationships with birth parents when appropriate and in the best interests of the foster child;
- (q) To be included in the development of any service agreements for a foster child;
- (r) To participate in decision-making, case-planning and permanency planning for a foster child;
- (s) To receive notice and an opportunity to be heard in any proceeding held with respect to a foster child, in accordance with District and federal law;
- (t) To accept or refuse placement and to request removal without fear of reprisal;
- (u) To be considered a priority placement option (when appropriate, based on the circumstances and the best interests of the child) when there is a significant relationship with the child or when the foster parent previously provided care for a child who has re-entered foster care, or when a child becomes available for adoption;
- (v) To appropriate supportive services, when available, that will enable the foster parent to meet the unique needs of the foster child and deal effectively with problems inherent in the foster child's adjustment to care;
- (w) To a response as soon as possible by the agency to crisis situations that may arise from the foster child's placement in the foster home;
- (x) To assistance in preparation for the separation of the foster child from foster care placement;
- (y) To timely board and care payments;
- (z) To have the payment criteria explained, including foster care board and care payments, clothing allowance, and any supplemental expenditures made to meet the foster child's needs;
- (aa) To pre-service and in-service training;

- (bb) To assistance in the selection, preparation, and completion of in-service foster parent training; and
- (cc) To reasonable respite as allowed by agency resources.

6003.2 CFSA or the agency shall maintain regular contact with the resource parent and the foster child. For a foster child placed in a foster home, every visit shall include a private visit with the foster child outside the presence of the resource parent except in those cases where the foster child is less than three (3) years of age.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 51 DCR 8609 (September 3, 2004); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 54 DCR 11051 (November 16, 2007); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 59 DCR 10669, 10670 (September 7, 2012); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 65 DCR 3642 (April 6, 2018); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6004            RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FOSTER CHILDREN  
LIVING IN FOSTER HOMES**

6004.1            The following principles and rights are to govern the care and treatment of foster children.

Each child is:

- (a)    To receive (or have his or her legal representative or guardian *ad litem*) a printed copy of this section.
- (b)    To be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.
- (c)    To receive appropriate and reasonable adult guidance, support, and supervision, consistent with his or her age and level of development.
- (d)    Not to be abused, mistreated, threatened with harm, harassed, subjected to corporal punishment or other unusual or extreme methods of discipline.
- (e)    Not to be denied the opportunity to have visits, telephone calls, or mail contact with his or her family members, social workers, guardian *ad litem*, or attorney, as a form of discipline.
- (f)    To receive language translation in accordance with the Language Access Act of 2004, effective June 19, 2004 (D.C. Law 15-167; D.C. Official Code §§ 2-1931 *et seq.*).
- (g)    Not to be subjected to discrimination as provided in the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977, as amended, effective December 13, 1977 (D.C. Law 2-38; D.C. Official Code §§ 2-1401.01 *et seq.*)
- (h)    As appropriate and consistent with his or her age and level of development, to know the reason he or she came into foster care and his or her permanency goal.
- (i)    As appropriate for his or her age and level of development, to be informed of decisions made on his or her behalf by the Agency and have the opportunity to participate in meetings where decisions are being made regarding him or her.
- (j)    To receive a social security card, state or District identification card, and available copies of his or her birth certificate, immunization records, medical insurance information, health records, education records, and immigration documents at least thirty (30) days before leaving care. If the

foster child is not 18 years of age, copies of these documents will be given to his or her guardian *ad litem* and legal guardian.

- (k) To receive assistance in opening an individual interest-bearing savings account in a financial institution that is federally insured, as appropriate and consistent with his or her age and level of development.
- (l) To have his or her records and personal information kept confidential and disclosed only in accordance with law.
- (m) To have reasonable privacy with respect to his or her person and property and when using the telephone and computer.
- (n) To receive reasonable accommodation to attend religious services, events, and activities of his or her choice.
- (o) Not to be coerced into attending religious services, events, or activities against his or her belief.
- (p) To reside in a foster home that is maintained in a safe, sanitary condition with reasonable measures being taken to keep it free from rodent and insect infestation.
- (q) To be permitted to bring personal belongings into foster care, acquire them while in care and take these belongings when he or she changes placements or exits foster care.
- (r) Subject to the availability of appropriate placements, to be placed with all or some siblings unless the placement is precluded by court order or not appropriate to the safety, best interest, or needs of the children.
- (s) To have visitation and communication with parents and siblings consistent with applicable court orders and reasonable, age and clinically appropriate visitation and communication with other relative or friends.
- (t) To have opportunities for continued connections with his or her family and others with whom he or she has meaningful relationships unless such a connection would be harmful to his or her safety or is precluded by court order.
- (u) To have the contact information of his or her current social worker, guardian *ad litem*, attorney and court-appointed special advocate, as applicable.

## District of Columbia Municipal Regulations

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- (v) To have regular communication and visitation from his or her social worker and his or her telephone calls and emails to his or her social worker returned within a reasonable amount of time.
- (w) To receive adequate and healthy food in accordance with his or her religious beliefs and reasonable dietary preferences, including vegetarianism, or medically or specially prescribed dietary needs.
- (x) To have his or her own adequate and appropriate seasonable clothing and footwear as well as necessary uniforms and professional clothing. Depending on his or her age and level of development, he or she should have the opportunity to provide input on the choice of clothing and footwear.
- (y) To have his or her own appropriate personal hygiene items.
- (z) To receive timely, adequate, and appropriate medical, dental, vision, mental health services, and drug and alcohol abuse and addiction services.
- (aa) To have information and the opportunity to communicate a preference or concern regarding treatment, medication, and medication options, as appropriate and consistent with his or her age and level of development.
- (bb) To receive a free and appropriate public education if he or she is of compulsory school age.
- (cc) To remain in his or her school of origin and maintain school continuity, unless it is contrary to his or her best interests or is inconsistent with the provision of special services to the child.
- (dd) Be permitted to participate in school-related extracurricular and recreational activities, and receive appropriate educational supports, as appropriate and consistent with his or age and her level of development.
- (ee) To receive post-secondary education, job readiness, and vocational training support, as needed.
- (ff) To receive timely notice of and have the ability to attend and be heard at court hearings relating to his or her case, as applicable and consistent with his or her age and level of development.
- (gg) To be represented by a guardian *ad litem* subject to the order of appointment by the Superior Court.
- (hh) To be permitted to request the court to appoint an attorney to represent his or her interest.

- (ii) To participate in the development of service plans and a transition plan that includes or addresses specific options on housing, health insurance, education, local opportunities for mentors and continuing support services, workforce supports, and employment services as applicable, consistent with his or her age and level of development and the availability of such program services.
- (jj) To be provided with opportunities to participate in age appropriate independent living activities and programs.
- (kk) To receive assistance in applying for a state identification card or driver's license.
- (ll) To be considered for limited financial assistance for a driver's education program at age 18, as funding allows if he or she has demonstrated the maturity and personal, social, and educational responsibility necessary for the operation of a motor vehicle.
- (mm) To receive a copy of consumer credit report annually at age fourteen (14) and assistance in interpreting and attempting to resolve any inaccuracies in the report as required by 42 U.S.C. § 675(5)(I).
- (nn) To be provided reasonable transportation to and from normal daily activities, including school, after school activities, medical appointments, employment, family visitation, religious events, cultural events, and activities, as funding allows, included in his or her case plan or service plan.
- (oo) To be permitted to report concerns under this section or concerns regarding care, placement, and services to the Agency and to be free from retaliation or threats of retaliation for reporting a concern.
- (pp) To receive an explanation of the process for reporting concerns to the Agency and receive a timely response when a concern is reported to the Agency.
- (qq) To be integrated into household and family activities, consistent with his or her age and level of development.
- (rr) To have privileges and responsibilities that correspond with those provided to other children living in the foster home, consistent with his or her age and level of development.

6004.2 A foster child living in a foster home is responsible for:

- (a) Keeping his or her room and possessions in good order and completing assigned daily or weekly chores, consistent with the foster child's age and level of development;
- (b) Attending school or other alternate education or training programs, if the foster child is of school age;
- (c) Following appropriate minimum personal care and hygiene standards consistent with the foster child's physical and developmental capabilities; and
- (d) Adhering to reasonable rules and behavior expectations of the resource parent.

6004.3 This section does not establish any additional private right of action beyond that which already exists under federal or District law.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 61 DCR 9579 (September 19, 2014); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 62 DCR 11539 (August 21, 2015); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6005 FOSTER HOME CAPACITY**

- 6005.1 A resource parent shall not accept a child for foster care services from any child-placing agency or person other than CFSA or the agency.
- 6005.2 Except as provided by §§ 6005.3 or 6005.4, the total number of children in a foster home, including the foster child:
- (a) May not exceed six (6) children;
  - (b) May not exceed two (2) children under two (2) years of age;
  - (c) May not exceed three (3) children under six (6) years of age; and
  - (d) May not exceed three (3) foster children.
- 6005.3 The total number of children in a foster home may not exceed two (2) children if any child in the foster home is:
- (a) Chronically medically fragile;
  - (b) Totally dependent on a caregiver for at least three (3) activities of daily living;
  - (c) Chronically wheelchair bound; or
  - (d) Diagnosed as having significant mental health or behavioral needs.
- 6005.4 CFSA may approve exceptions to the placement limits set forth in §§ 6005.2 or 6005.3. Exceptions shall be:
- (a) Made prior to the foster child's placement;
  - (b) For an exception to § 6005.2, limited to siblings and when there are no other children in the home; and
  - (c) For an exception to § 6005.3, limited to one (1) additional foster child per home.
- 6005.5 A foster home shall have adequate space for all household members including the resource parent's own children and the foster child without disrupting the sleeping and living arrangements of the household members who resided in the foster home prior to the foster child's placement.

## District of Columbia Municipal Regulations

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SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6006 TRANSPORTATION SAFETY**

- 6006.1 A resource parent shall ensure that all vehicles used to transport foster children are maintained in a safe condition and in compliance with all applicable motor vehicle laws.
- 6006.2 A resource parent shall provide and use child restraint seats or seat belts, as appropriate to the foster child's age, in all vehicles.
- 6006.3 Any vehicle in which a foster child may be a passenger or driver shall have comprehensive liability and personal injury insurance that provides coverage in the event of personal or property injury arising from the operation of the vehicle.
- 6006.4 A resource parent shall allow a foster child to be transported only by responsible persons who possess valid driver's licenses.
- 6006.5 A resource parent shall prohibit smoking in a vehicle used to transport a foster child.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6007 GENERAL PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

- 6007.1 A foster home shall be free from all safety hazards, including fire, sanitation, and health hazards.
- 6007.2 A foster home shall be properly ventilated and heated.
- 6007.3 A foster home shall have and use protective devices on all windows to prevent a child from falling out of the window.
- 6007.4 A foster home shall have and use screens on all windows that open. The agency may make an exception to this requirement after conducting a safety assessment of the foster home.
- 6007.5 A foster home shall have and use safety locks on all windows and doors on or above the second floor.
- 6007.6 A foster home shall have a working landline or a dedicated mobile phone. If a mobile phone is being used to comply with this requirement, it shall be in the foster home at all times and shall be accessible to all family members including the foster child for use in an emergency.
- 6007.7 A resource parent shall store all prescription and nonprescription drugs, poisonous chemicals, and hazardous materials in locked storage or safely out of the reach of children.
- 6007.8 A resource parent shall store alcoholic beverages in locked storage or safely out of the reach of children.
- 6007.9 A foster parent shall be in compliance with all laws concerning firearms in the jurisdiction in which the foster home is located. Notwithstanding the law in the jurisdictions, all firearms shall be:
- (a) Stored unloaded and in a locked container that is inaccessible to children;
  - (b) Equipped with and use properly a tamper-resistant mechanical lock or other safety device, that, when properly engaged will render the firearm inoperable by any person other than the owner or other lawfully authorized user; and
  - (c) Stored separately from any ammunition, which shall be stored in locked storage that is inaccessible to children.
- 6007.10 A resource parent shall have comprehensive first aid supplies, including at a minimum, bandages, rubbing alcohol, peroxide, and the phone number for poison control.

District of Columbia Municipal Regulations

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- 6007.11 A resource parent shall monitor foster children’s safety around animals and shall restrict foster children’s access to potentially dangerous animals. All foster home pets shall be properly vaccinated, licensed, and have a temperament and behavior conducive to being around children.
- 6007.12 A foster home shall have no more pets than can be cared for appropriately, consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the children, and the size and location of the foster home.
- 6007.13 A resource parent shall maintain a kitchen with the necessary, operable equipment for safe food preparation, food storage, serving, and cleanup of meals.
- 6007.14 A foster home shall have living room or family room space that is adequately furnished and accessible to all members of the household, including foster children.
- 6007.15 A foster home shall have a designated dining area with age-appropriate dining furniture for the foster child.
- 6007.16 A foster child’s bedroom shall have:
- (a) Two (2) means of egress with at least one (1) means of egress providing direct access to the outside;
  - (b) A closet, wardrobe, or sufficient storage space for the foster child’s clothes and belongings; and
  - (c) A door.
- 6007.17 [REPEALED]
- 6007.18 [REPEALED]
- 6007.19 [REPEALED]
- 6007.20 [REPEALED]
- 6007.21 [REPEALED]
- 6007.22 [REPEALED]
- 6007.23 [REPEALED]
- 6007.24 [REPEALED]

## District of Columbia Municipal Regulations

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- 6007.25 [REPEALED]
- 6007.26 [REPEALED]
- 6007.27 [REPEALED]
- 6007.28 [REPEALED]
- 6007.29 If a foster child's bedroom has a door with direct access to the outside, the door shall have appropriate safety locks and safety devices.
- 6007.30 A foster child's bedroom may not be used as a passageway to another room in the foster home.
- 6007.31 A foster child's bedroom may not be located as to require the foster child to pass through another bedroom or any area being used as a sleeping area by another household member.
- 6007.32 A foster child's bedroom shall only be used for sleeping purposes and customary children's activities and may not be used for other purposes such as a general storage area or a home business site.
- 6007.33 A foster child may not sleep in a bedroom located in the basement unless:
- (a) The foster child is fourteen (14) years of age or older; and
  - (b) The agency has given prior approval.
- 6007.34 A foster child's bedroom shall be sufficient in size to provide for the safety, privacy, and comfort of the foster child. The following bedroom sizes shall be used as general guidelines for adequate square footage:
- (a) Seventy (70) square feet for one (1) foster child;
  - (b) One hundred (100) square feet for two (2) foster children; and
  - (c) One hundred and fifty (150) square feet for three (3) foster children.
- 6007.35 CFSA may license a foster home with bedrooms that do not meet the general guidelines in § 6007.34 if CFSA finds and has documented that the available space is adequate to provide for safety, privacy, and comfort of each foster child.
- 6007.36 No more than three (3) children may share a room regardless of the room's size.
- 6007.37 No foster child may share a bedroom with a child of the opposite sex unless:
- (a) Both children are under five (5) years of age; or

- (b) The foster child is a minor parent and is sharing a bedroom with their child.

6007.38 A foster child may not share a bedroom with a child of the same sex if there is more than a four (4) year age difference between the children unless:

- (a) The child is a sibling of the foster child and the agency has given prior approval for the children to share a bedroom; or
- (b) The foster child is a minor parent and is sharing a bedroom with his or her child.

6007.39 A foster child may not share a bedroom with an adult unless:

- (a) The foster child is medically fragile and the agency has given prior approval for the foster child to share a bedroom with an adult; or
- (b) The foster child:
  - (i) Is under eighteen (18) months of age; and
  - (ii) There is a separate bedroom for the foster child to sleep when the foster child turns eighteen (18) months of age. The bedroom shall have been assessed by the agency at the time the foster home was licensed.

6007.40 A resource parent shall sleep on the same level of the foster home as a foster child unless:

- (a) The agency has given prior approval for the foster child to sleep on a different level of the foster home than the resource parent, provided that the foster child is not sleeping in a basement if under the age of fourteen (14). The agency may require the resource parent to have a monitoring device or undertake certain safety measures; or
- (b) The foster child is fourteen (14) years of age or older and the agency, in accordance with 6007.33, has given prior approval for the foster child to sleep in the basement. The agency may require the resource parent to have a monitoring device or undertake certain safety measures.

6007.41 A resource parent may not share a bed with a foster child.

6007.42 A resource parent shall provide each foster child with his or her own individual bed and each infant foster child with his or her own individual crib which meets Consumer Product Safety Commission standards. The bed or crib may not be a

cot, sofa, sofa bed, futon bed, trundle bed (a low bed that is stored under a larger bed when not in use), mattress without a bedframe, or any type of portable bed or crib unless the agency has given prior approval because of a short-term emergency or an emergency placement.

- 6007.43 A resource parent shall provide each foster child with a clean non-toxic mattress, waterproof cover (as necessary), clean bed linens, and sufficient blankets and pillows.
- 6007.44 A resource parent shall provide sufficient individual storage space for each foster child's clothing and other personal belongings similar to that provided to other children in the home.
- 6007.45 A foster home shall have a minimum of one (1) flush toilet, one (1) wash basin with running water, and one (1) bath or shower with hot and cold water for every eight (8) residents.
- 6007.46 A resource parent who lives in an apartment building shall obtain evidence from the building manager or landlord that the building has been approved for fire safety within the last two (2) years.
- 6007.47 A foster home shall have an adequate supply of safe drinking water.
- 6007.48 A foster home shall have adequate lighting.
- 6007.49 All heating sources shall be in good working order and not pose a safety risk to a foster child.
- 6007.50 CFSA may require a resource parent to take additional safety measures that are necessary to maintain the safety and wellbeing of a foster child in addition to what is required by this chapter.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 72 DCR 012099 (October 31, 2025).

**6008 CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK**

- 6008.1 As part of the home study process, an agency shall ensure that each individual identified in § 6008.3 has a criminal records check in accordance with District and federal laws and regulations.
- 6008.2 The criminal records check shall consist of a search to determine whether an individual has a criminal conviction.
- 6008.3 The criminal records check shall be performed by
- (a) The Federal Bureau of Investigation, for national records;
  - (b) The Metropolitan Police Department, if the individual as an adult has resided, worked, or attended school in the District at any time in the past five (5) years; and
  - (c) Each relevant state's law enforcement agency, if the individual as an adult has resided, worked, or attended school outside of the District at any time in the past five (5) years.
- 6008.4 The following individuals shall apply for a criminal records check as part of the home study process:
- (a) An applicant;
  - (b) Any other adult residing in a prospective foster home;
  - (c) Back-up caregiver;
  - (d) Any other adult residing in the home of the back-up caregiver;
  - (e) Extended caregiver;
  - (f) Any other adult residing in the home of the extended caregiver; and
  - (g) Any adult who is a frequent visitor of the foster home.
- 6008.5 Nothing in this section shall be read to preclude an agency other than CFSA from paying for all or part of the cost of the criminal records check.
- 6008.6 Except as provided in § 6008.6, CFSA may not license an individual as a resource parent if any adult residing in the prospective foster home:
- (a) Has a felony conviction for any of the following offenses or their equivalents:

- (1) Child abuse;
  - (2) Child neglect;
  - (3) An intrafamily offense, as defined in Section 16-1001(8) of the District of Columbia Official Code;
  - (4) A crime against children, including child pornography; or
  - (5) A crime involving violence, including but not limited to, rape, sexual assault, homicide, but not including other physical assault or battery; or
- (b) Has a felony conviction for any of the following offenses or their equivalents committed within the past five (5) years:
- (1) Physical assault;
  - (2) Battery; or
  - (3) A drug-related offense.

6008.7 Notwithstanding a conviction as set forth in § 6008.5, CFSA may license an individual as a resource parent if it determines, after the individual's satisfactory completion of all other requirements of this chapter and a review of the conviction and current circumstances, that the individual would be able to provide care for foster children consistent with this chapter and the health, safety, and welfare of the foster children.

6008.8 A criminal records check shall be performed once every two (2) years as part of the re-evaluation and license renewal pursuant to § 6030.

6008.9 If a criminal records check reveals that a back-up caregiver or an adult residing in the home of the back-up caregiver has a felony criminal conviction, CFSA shall review the results and determine whether the back-up caregiver is able to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the foster child.

6008.10 If a criminal records check reveals that an extended caregiver or an adult residing in the home of the extended caregiver has a felony criminal conviction, CFSA shall review the results and determine whether the extended caregiver is able to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the foster child.

6008.11 An applicant or resource parent may not be on probation or parole.

6008.12 If an adult living in the home of the applicant or a resource parent, back-up caregiver, adult living in the home of a back-up caregiver, extended caregiver, or an adult residing in the home of an extended caregiver is on probation or parole, CFSA shall make an assessment as to whether the individual poses a health, safety, or welfare risk to a foster child.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 51 DCR 8609 (September 3, 2004); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6009 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER CHECK**

- 6009.1 As part of the home study process, an agency shall receive a clearance check for each individual listed § 6009.2 from the District's child protection register and from the child protection registers in every state in which the individual resided or worked within the previous five (5) years.
- 6009.2 The following individuals shall apply for a child protection register clearance:
- (a) An applicant;
  - (b) Any adult residing in the prospective foster home;
  - (c) Back-up caregiver;
  - (d) Any other adult residing in the home of the back-up caregiver;
  - (e) Extended caregiver;
  - (f) Any other adult residing in the home of the extended caregiver; and
  - (g) Any adult who is a frequent visitor of the foster home.
- 6009.3 Except as provided in § 6009.4, CFSA may not license an individual as a resource parent if that individual or any adult residing in the prospective foster home is:
- (a) Identified as the abuser or neglecter in a supported case of child abuse or neglect; or
  - (b) Identified as a possible abuser or neglecter in a report of child abuse or neglect that is inconclusive or cannot be supported or unfounded.
- 6009.4 Notwithstanding § 6009.3, CFSA may license an individual as a resource parent if it determines, after the individual's satisfactory completion of all other requirements of this chapter and a review of the child abuse or neglect case and current circumstances, that the individual would be able to provide care for foster children consistent with this chapter and the health, safety, and welfare of the children.
- 6009.5 A child protection register check shall be performed on the individuals listed in § 6009.2 once every year.
- 6009.6 If a child protection register check reveals that a back-up caregiver, extended caregiver, frequent visitor to the foster home, or an adult residing in the home of the back-up caregiver or extended caregiver is identified as the abuser or neglecter in a substantiated child abuse or neglect case, CFSA shall review the results and

determine whether the back-up caregiver, extended caregiver or frequent visitor is able to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the child.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 51 DCR 8609 (September 3, 2004); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6010 FIRE SAFETY**

- 6010.1 A foster home shall meet the fire safety requirements of the jurisdiction in which it is located.
- 6010.2 A foster home shall be free from all fire hazards, including faulty electric cords, unsafe appliances, and unsafe fireplaces and chimneys.
- 6010.3 A foster home shall have working smoke detectors that meet the jurisdiction's requirements on each floor and in each bedroom.
- 6010.4 A foster home shall have a wall-mounted, portable, dry chemical fire extinguisher that meets the jurisdiction's requirement on every floor of the foster home.
- 6010.5 A resource parent shall develop a fire evacuation plan and share it with all household members, including a foster child who is capable of understanding. The fire evacuation plan shall be displayed in a prominent place in the home.
- 6010.6 A resource parent shall store combustible items away from sources of heat.
- 6010.7 A foster home shall have two (2) means of egress that provide unrestricted exit in case of fire.
- 6010.8 A foster home shall have a working carbon monoxide detector on each floor of the foster home and at least one (1) carbon monoxide detector near each sleeping area.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6011            SANITATION**

- 6011.1            A resource parent shall keep the home clean and free of hazards and debris.
- 6011.2            A resource parent shall keep all plumbing in working order.
- 6011.3            A foster home shall have an adequate supply of hot water for bathing and dishwashing.
- 6011.4            Hot water accessible to foster children shall not exceed one hundred twenty degrees (120 [degrees]) Fahrenheit at the outlet.
- 6011.5            A resource parent shall take measures to keep the house and premises free of rodents and insects. If evidence of rodents or insects is present, the resource parent shall:
- (a)            Exterminate the home within five (5) days;
  - (b)            Provide the agency with documentation of the extermination; and
  - (c)            Comply with the exterminator's recommendations for keeping the house and premises free of rodents and insects.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6012 EXTERIOR ENVIRONMENT**

- 6012.1 The exterior premises of a foster home shall be free from all safety hazards and from any objects or materials that constitute a danger to a foster child.
- 6012.2 A foster home that has a swimming pool shall meet the jurisdiction's requirements for the pool.
- 6012.3 A resource parent shall make swimming and wading pools inaccessible to foster children except when supervised by an adult who can swim.
- 6012.4 A swimming pool shall have a barrier on all sides.
- 6012.5 All entrances or gates to a swimming pool shall have operable locks.
- 6012.6 A swimming pool shall be equipped with life saving devices such as a ring buoy.
- 6012.7 A swimming pool shall have a working pump and filtering system if it cannot be emptied after each use.
- 6012.8 Hot tubs and spas shall have safety covers that are locked when the hot tub or spa is not in use.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6013 MAINTAINING FOSTER CHILDREN'S RECORDS**

6013.1 A resource parent shall maintain records on each foster child placed in the home. All information regarding a foster child shall be kept confidential and released only in accordance with § 6023.

6013.2 A foster child's records shall include the following information:

- (a) The foster child's name, birth date, and Medical Assistance number;
- (b) The name, address, and telephone number(s) of each person to contact in case of emergency and each person authorized to give medical consent;
- (c) A record of the foster child's medical and dental appointments, illness and health problems, prescribed medications, and hospitalizations;
- (d) Reports of the foster child's medical tests and any information or counseling received regarding chronic conditions and disabilities;
- (e) A copy of any service agreement for the foster child;
- (f) Dates of future Court or administrative reviews, any medical or other appointments, and planned activities;
- (g) The dates that the foster child arrived at and departed from the foster home;
- (h) A listing of the activities in the foster child's case plan for which the resource parent is responsible;
- (i) School reports; and
- (j) A record of the foster child's memberships, activities, and participation in extracurricular activities.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6014 PLANNING WITH THE AGENCY**

- 6014.1 A resource parent shall take part in planning for the foster child and shall cooperate in pre-placement activities for any foster child to be placed in the home.
- 6014.2 A resource parent shall work with agency staff in the development and implementation of the foster child's case plan.
- 6014.3 A resource parent may participate in administrative and judicial reviews for each foster child. The agency shall give the resource parent ten (10) business days' notice of all judicial hearings and administrative reviews concerning each foster child in the resource parent's care.
- 6014.4 A resource parent shall give ten (10) business days' notice when requesting that the agency remove a foster child from the home, unless the foster child presents an imminent danger to himself or herself or to others in the home, or there are other emergency circumstances, as assessed by the agency.
- 6014.5 A resource parent shall make available any information or documents necessary for the completion of the renewal process.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6015 WORKING WITH THE FOSTER CHILD'S FAMILY**

- 6015.1 A resource parent shall work with the foster child's family members as set forth in the foster child's case plan.
- 6015.2 A resource parent shall be consulted by the foster child's social worker in planning for visits between the foster child and his or her parents and family members in accordance with the case plan.
- 6015.3 A resource parent shall allow each foster child and the foster child's family members and friends to communicate by mail, email, and by telephone in accordance with the foster child's case plan.
- 6015.4 A resource parent shall maintain the confidentiality of information concerning the foster child's family in accordance with the requirements of § 6023.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6016 FAMILY LIFE ACTIVITIES**

- 6016.1 A foster parent shall incorporate each foster child into family activities, including family mealtimes, outings, and vacations.
- 6016.2 A foster parent shall accord the foster child privileges and responsibilities consistent with those provided other children in the household.
- 6016.3 A foster parent shall provide structure and daily activities designed to promote the individual physical, social, intellectual, spiritual, and emotional development of the foster child.
- 6016.4 A foster parent shall help each foster child develop age-appropriate skills and perform tasks that will promote independence and the ability to care for himself or herself.
- 6016.5 A foster parent shall provide age-appropriate toys and books suitable for the foster child.
- 6016.6 A foster parent may ask a foster child to assume household chores reasonable to the foster child's age and ability, and commensurate with those expected of the foster parent's own children.
- 6016.7 An eligible foster child shall receive an allowance in accordance with CFSA's allowance policy.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6017 CLOTHING AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

- 6017.1 A resource parent shall provide each foster child with his or her own clean, well-fitting, in good condition, attractive, and seasonal clothing appropriate to the foster child's age, gender expression, and individual needs, and comparable to community standards. The purchase of this clothing shall come from the money allotted within the foster care board and care payments.
- 6017.2 A resource parent shall permit the foster child to choose her or his own clothing whenever possible.
- 6017.3 A resource parent shall allow each foster child to bring and acquire personal belongings, and shall provide reasonable and private child-accessible space for storage.
- 6017.4 A resource parent shall send all personal clothing and belongings with each foster child when the foster child leaves the foster home. A resource parent may not keep any clothing when a foster child leaves the foster home unless the clothing is clearly too small for the foster child and would not fit a sibling who is in placement with the foster child.
- 6017.5 Each foster child shall have sufficient suitcases, backpacks, or trunks for the transportation of the foster child's personal clothing and belongings. CFSA shall ensure that each foster child has sufficient containers to hold all of the foster child's clothes and belongings when the foster child is placed in the foster home. The resource parent shall ensure that the foster child leaves the foster home with sufficient containers to hold all the foster child's clothes and belongings. A garbage bag is not considered a suitable container for purposes of this subsection.
- 6017.6 A resource parent shall maintain a clothing inventory that is updated seasonally for each foster child in her or his care.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6018 DISCIPLINE AND BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT**

- 6018.1 A resource parent shall teach and guide each foster child with techniques that stress praise and encouragement.
- 6018.2 Discipline shall be appropriate to the age and disability, if any, of the foster child.
- 6018.3 A resource parent shall establish well-defined rules that set the expectations for and the limits of behavior.
- 6018.4 No resource parent shall subject a child to physical, emotional, or verbal abuse, derogatory remarks about the child or family members, or threats of removal from the foster home.
- 6018.5 A resource parent shall not use forms of discipline that involve cruel, severe, or humiliating actions, including, but not limited to:
- (a) Physical punishment inflicted in any manner upon the body;
  - (b) Denial of balanced nutrition, clothing, or shelter;
  - (c) Denial of visits, telephone calls, or mail contact with family members, social workers, or attorneys; and
  - (d) Assignment of strenuous exercise or work to the point of endangering the health of the child.
- 6018.6 A resource parent shall not punish a child for bed-wetting or any action regarding toilet training.
- 6018.7 A resource parent shall take steps to ensure that any other person providing care to a foster child adheres to the requirements of this section.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6019 HEALTH CARE**

- 6019.1 A resource parent and the agency shall cooperate with the CFSA on-site health clinic or other health care provider in identifying and meeting the health care needs of the foster child.
- 6019.2 The foster child's health care shall include a medical screen within twenty-four (24) hours of placement, a full medical and mental health examination within two (2) weeks of entering fostering care, and a dental examination within thirty (30) days of entering foster care that is arranged by the child's social worker.
- 6019.3 A resource parent and the agency shall cooperate in planning to meet the health care needs of a foster child as identified through the CFSA on-site health clinic or any other health care provider.
- 6019.4 A resource parent may not consent to health care for a foster child. The resource parent shall notify the agency immediately of any situation requiring consent to health care.
- 6019.5 A resource parent shall make and keep all health care appointments for the foster child, as identified through the CFSA on-site health clinic or any other health care provider.
- 6019.6 A resource parent shall be responsible for transporting each foster child to all health care appointments. Assistance from the agency may be provided under special circumstances.
- 6019.7 Prescription medications shall be given to a foster child only on the instructions of a physician or other licensed medical practitioner. The resource parent shall supervise and administer the exact amount of the medication.
- 6019.8 A resource parent shall inform CFSA and the agency within one (1) business day if a licensed medical practitioner prescribes any medication that is to be taken for more than five (5) days.
- 6019.9 A resource parent shall provide a nutritionally balanced diet adequate for the foster child's growth and development.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6020 RELIGION AND ETHNIC HERITAGE**

- 6020.1 A resource parent shall recognize, encourage, and support the religious beliefs, ethnic heritage, and language of a foster child and his or her family.
- 6020.2 A resource parent shall not coerce a foster child into attending or participating in religious activities or ethnic events against his or her will.
- 6020.3 A resource parent shall provide or arrange transportation, consistent with § 6002.1(g), to religious services or events for a foster child.
- 6020.4 A resource parent shall provide access to positive cultural role models and experiences.
- 6020.5 A resource parent shall be sensitive to and have an awareness of the foster child's grooming needs as it relates to the foster child's culture, ethnicity, or religion and shall include the foster child's parent, whenever possible, in decision-making when a child's hairstyle may have cultural or religious significance.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024)

**6021 EDUCATION**

- 6021.1 A foster child shall remain in the school in which the foster child is enrolled at the time of placement in the foster home, unless CFSA determines that it is contrary to the foster child's best interest.
- 6021.2 If CFSA determines that a foster child may attend a school other than the school the foster child was attending at the time of placement in the foster home:
- (a) CFSA shall, to the extent possible, provide any documentation needed for a school-age foster child's school placement within four (4) school days of the foster child's placement in the foster home; and
  - (b) The resource parent shall enroll the foster child in school within one (1) school day of receipt of the documentation. CFSA shall assist in this process as needed.
- 6021.3 A resource parent shall cooperate with the agency and shall take part in the selection of and arrangements for educational programs appropriate to the foster child's age and abilities, in accordance with the case plan.
- 6021.4 A resource parent shall plan with school personnel when there are any problems with the foster child in school and shall report serious situations to the agency.
- 6021.5 A resource parent shall participate in each foster child's school activities related to the child's academic performance.
- 6021.6 Whenever possible, a resource parent shall become the parent surrogate for any foster child in her or his care who is deemed eligible for special education services.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6022 RECREATION AND COMMUNITY**

- 6022.1 A resource parent shall provide opportunities for recreational and cultural activities that are appropriate to the age and abilities of the foster child.
- 6022.2 All organized activities shall be supervised by the resource parent, another adult caregiver designated by the resource parent, or the designated group leader.
- 6022.3 A resource parent shall encourage the foster child to take part in community services and cultural activities both with the resource parent family and on the foster child's own.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6023 CONFIDENTIALITY**

6023.1 A resource parent shall maintain the confidentiality of all information about a foster child and the foster child's family. A resource parent may transmit information about a foster child or the foster child's family only in accordance with District law:

- (a) To CFSA and its representatives;
- (b) To the agency and its representatives;
- (c) The foster child's parent pursuant to § 6002.2(c);
- (d) To the foster child's attorney;
- (e) To the foster child's guardian ad litem;
- (f) To the parent's attorney;
- (g) As authorized by CFSA or the agency in order to provide services to the foster child and in accordance with § 6023;
- (h) As necessary for the provision of medical, mental health, or educational services; and
- (i) In accordance with a court order.

6023.2 A resource parent may not disclose confidential information about a foster child or the foster child's family on social media.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6024 ABUSE, NEGLECT, OR OTHER RISKS TO FOSTER CHILD'S HEALTH OR SAFETY**

6024.1 CFSA shall conduct an investigation, in accordance with the time lines set forth by District law, to assess compliance with this chapter of the DCMR and the ability of a resource parent to provide for a foster child's health and safety after receiving information indicating:

- (a) Suspected abuse or neglect in a foster home; or
- (b) Any other information indicating a suspected risk to a foster child's health or safety from the resource parent or in the foster home.

6024.2 For the purposes of this section, "Hotline" means the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline.

6024.3 Any agency employee who receives information concerning or makes a personal observation of suspected abuse or neglect in a foster home, or who has any other information indicating a suspected risk to a foster child's health or safety from a foster parent or in a foster home, shall immediately notify:

- (a) The Hotline (202-671-SAFE);
- (b) The social worker or supervisor for the foster child who is the subject of the report; and
- (c) The social worker or supervisor for each foster child who was living in the foster home when the incident occurred.

6024.4 Any agency employee who observes that a child placed in a foster home is in serious and immediate danger shall:

- (a) Take immediate steps to protect the foster child including, as appropriate, removing the foster child from the foster home; and
- (b) Immediately notify:
  - (1) The Hotline (202-671-SAFE);
  - (2) The social worker or supervisor for the child who is the subject of the report; and
  - (3) The social worker or supervisor for each foster child who was living in the foster home when the incident occurred.

## District of Columbia Municipal Regulations

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- 6024.5 The notification to the Hotline made pursuant to §§ 6024.3 or 6024.4 shall include informing the Hotline that the child is a foster child and providing the name, address, and telephone numbers of the foster parent.
- 6024.6 Upon receipt of notification pursuant to §§ 6024.3 or 6024.4 the Hotline shall immediately notify:
- (a) CFSA resource parent re-licensing and agency resource parent support staff; and
  - (b) The Director or designee.
- 6024.7 CFSA shall respond to the notification received pursuant to §§ 6024.3 or 6024.4 as required by District law and CFSA policy, including, but not limited to, by conducting an investigation and, as appropriate, suspending or revoking a license in accordance with § 6031.
- 6024.8 The investigator, social workers for all foster children in the foster home, and monitoring and placement staff shall remain in close communication throughout any investigation undertaken pursuant to this section.
- 6024.9 If an investigation is undertaken pursuant to this section:
- (a) Additional foster children may not be placed in the foster home until the investigation is completed and CFSA determines it will continue to license the home;
  - (b) Children shall be removed from the home when and as required by District law and CFSA policy; and
  - (c) If any foster child remains in the foster home, the agency shall visit the foster home at least once a week as long as any foster child remains in the home and until a decision is rendered as to the continued use of the home.
- 6024.10 Within five (5) business days after completion of an investigation undertaken pursuant to this section, CFSA shall render a written decision as to the continued use of the foster home.
- 6024.11 A copy of the CFSA decision concerning the continued use of the foster home shall be:
- (a) Forwarded to the agency;
  - (b) Placed in the foster home record; and

- (c) Placed in the record of any foster child living in the home when the incident occurred.

6024.12 Upon completion of an investigation undertaken pursuant to this section, CFSA shall send written notice of the outcome of the investigation to:

- (a) The agency;
- (b) The Court;
- (c) The foster child's parent(s);
- (d) The foster child's guardian ad litem;
- (e) The parents and guardian ad litem of any other foster child residing in the home when the incident occurred; and
- (f) The parent(s) and guardian ad litem of any other foster child involved in the suspected abuse or neglect.

6024.13 Upon completion of the investigation, CFSA shall make a decision as to the continued use of the home in accordance with § 6031. CFSA shall send a copy of its decision to the resource parent and to the parents and guardians ad litem for any foster child living in the foster home when the incident occurred.

6024.14 Notwithstanding the decision reached pursuant to § 6024.13, an agency other than CFSA may decide to close a foster home based on the investigation conducted pursuant to § 6024.1. The agency shall notify CFSA in writing of a decision to close a foster home at least ten (10) business days prior to the effective date of the decision.

6024.15 The provisions of this section are in addition to the requirements of law for the reporting and investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect in the District of Columbia and, if different, in the jurisdiction in which the foster home is located.

6024.16 CFSA shall discuss its findings from the investigation required by § 6024.1 with the resource parent.

6024.17 Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter of the DCMR, CFSA may remove a foster child from a foster home whenever such a removal would, in the judgement of CFSA, be in the best interest of the foster child's health, safety and welfare, or would promote the achievement of the child's case plan or permanency.

## District of Columbia Municipal Regulations

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SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6025 VIOLATION OF THIS CHAPTER**

- 6025.1 Any agency employee who receives information concerning or makes a personal observation of a violation of this chapter of the DCMR that is not required to be reported to CFSA pursuant to § 6024 shall immediately notify the agency.
- 6025.2 Upon receiving notification pursuant to § 6025.1, the agency shall immediately investigate. The investigation shall include, as appropriate, unannounced visit(s) to the foster home, interview(s) with any foster child in the foster home, and interview(s) with the resource parent.
- 6025.3 If an investigation undertaken pursuant to § 6025.2 indicates possible abuse, neglect, or another risk to a foster child's health or safety, the agency shall immediately notify CFSA as required by § 6024.
- 6025.4 The agency shall notify CFSA of both the notification required by § 6025.1 and the results of the investigation required by § 6025.2 within ten (10) business days after the notification.
- 6025.5 If the information provided to CFSA indicates possible abuse, neglect, or another risk to a foster child's health or safety, CFSA shall proceed in accordance with §§ 6024 and 6031.
- 6025.6 The provisions of this section are in addition to the requirements of law for the reporting and investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect in the District of Columbia and, if different, in the jurisdiction in which the foster home is located.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6026 RESOURCE PARENT TRAINING**

- 6026.1 An applicant shall participate in an information session offered by the agency.
- 6026.2 In addition to the information session required by § 6026.1, an applicant shall participate in and complete thirty (30) hours of pre-service training offered by the agency. An agency may require an applicant to retake the pre-service training required by this subsection, if the applicant is not licensed within the timeframe specified by the pre-service training curriculum currently offered by the agency.
- 6026.3 Pre-service training shall encompass the following areas:
- (a) Role and relationships in foster care between CFSA, agency personnel, the resource parent, the foster child, and the foster child's family;
  - (b) The importance of the foster child's family and the foster child's relationship with them;
  - (c) Developmental needs of children in foster care, including children with a disability;
  - (d) Awareness of cultural and religious differences;
  - (e) Child management and discipline techniques;
  - (f) Child abuse and neglect, including prevention, reporting, investigation, and services;
  - (g) Supportive services available in the community for foster children and resource parents and their families;
  - (h) Self-awareness;
  - (i) Communication skills;
  - (j) Problem solving;
  - (k) This chapter of the DCMR;
  - (l) The licensure process, including the agency's internal processes;
  - (m) The procedures and practices of the Family Division of the District of Columbia Superior Court related to children in foster care;

- (n) Information regarding the prevalence in foster care and unique health and social service needs of foster children who are at greater risk of aging out of foster care without being adopted, such as:
  - (1) Foster children fourteen (14) years of age or older;
  - (2) Foster children in sibling groups;
  - (3) Foster children of racial or ethnic minorities;
  - (4) Foster children with a disability; and
  - (5) Foster children who identify as LGBTQIA+.
- (o) Cultural competency training designed to enhance awareness of the LGBTQIA+ community.

6026.4 In lieu of the training required by § 6026.2, an agency may accept training provided by another child-placing agency and completed satisfactorily by the applicant if the training and participation is properly documented and covers required areas. The agency may offer special sessions to cover any gaps in training.

6026.5 A resource parent shall participate in thirty (30) hours of in-service training every two (2) years to increase her or his skills and parenting abilities before the expiration of his or her license. This training shall be appropriate to the age and special needs of the foster children in the foster home, and may include formal seminars or workshops, support groups, or one-on-one training.

6026.6 A resource parent shall obtain and maintain documentation of any training in which the resource parent participates in accordance with § 6026.5 and submit such documentation during the re-evaluation in accordance with § 6030.3.

6026.7 To meet the thirty (30) hour requirement, in-service training provided shall be approved in advance by CFSA.

6026.8

- (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, a resource parent shall participate in specialized training if the foster child placed in the foster home:
  - (1) Is LGBTQIA+;
  - (2) Is a victim of sex trafficking, as that term is defined in Section 103(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, approved October 28, 2000 (114 Stat. 1469; 22 USC § 7102(1));

- (3) Is a child with a disability;
- (4) Is pregnant or a parent;
- (5) Has a history of violent behavior;
- (6) Is sixteen (16) years of age or older.

(b) Specialized training shall be required unless the agency conducts an assessment of the resource parent's strengths and needs that indicates that specialized training is not necessary. The strengths and needs assessment shall include an evaluation of the resource parent's:

- (1) Post-secondary education;
- (2) Specialized certification or licensure;
- (3) Employment experience; and
- (4) Previous experience caring for the foster children described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

6026.9 Within forty-five (45) days of identifying the need for specialized training in accordance with § 6026.8, the agency shall:

- (a) Notify the resource parent of the requirement to complete specialized training pursuant to § 6026.8;
- (b) Determine the course of specialized training that the resource parent shall complete; and
- (c) Provide or assist the resource parent in obtaining the specialized training required pursuant to § 6026.8 within the timeframe required pursuant to § 6026.10, while reasonably accommodating the resource parent's schedule.

6026.10 Within ninety (90) days of receiving notice from the agency pursuant to § 6026.9(a), a resource parent shall complete the specialized training identified pursuant to § 6026.9(b).

6026.11 Only the following training may be counted towards the specialized training requirement of § 6026.8:

- (a) Specialized training completed by a resource parent within the timeframe required pursuant to § 6026.10;

- (b) Specialized training completed by a resource parent four (4) months prior to receiving notice from the agency pursuant to § 6026.9; or
- (c) Specialized training completed by a resource parent one (1) year prior to the expiration date of the resource parent's current license.

6026.12 A resource parent shall obtain and maintain documentation of any training in which the resource parent participates in accordance with § 6026.8 and submit such documentation during the re-evaluation conducted in accordance with § 6030.3.

6026.13 A resource parent's completion of specialized training in accordance with § 6026.8 may be used to satisfy the hours of in-service training required pursuant to § 6026.5.

6026.14 For the purposes of this section, the term "child with a disability" shall have the same meaning as provided in Section 602(3) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, approved December 3, 2004 (118 Stat. 2652; 20 USC § 1401(3)).

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 59 DCR 10669 (September 7, 2012); as amended by Foster Parent Training Regulation Amendment Act of 2018, effective March 22, 2019 (D.C. Law 22-253; 66 DCR 1331 (February 1, 2019)); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6027            TEMPORARY LICENSE FOR KIN**

6027.1            CFSA may issue a temporary license to operate a foster home only if:

- (a)    The applicant:
  - (1)    Is kin to each foster child who would be placed in the applicant's home and exigent circumstances as set forth in § 6027.2 exist; or
  - (2)    Was licensed as a resource parent within the last five (5) years and;
    - (i)    The previous license was not denied, suspended, revoked, or subject to any other adverse licensing action;
    - (ii)   The applicant is seeking temporary licensure for the same residence for which they were previously licensed; and
    - (iii)  There have been no changes to the applicant's family composition since the applicant was previously licensed to operate a foster home;
- (b)    The applicant has submitted an application for a license to operate a foster home;
- (c)    The applicant has:
  - (1)    Received a satisfactory criminal records check from the Interstate Identification Index System of the National Crime Information Center (III);
  - (2)    Applied for a criminal records check in accordance with § 6008 of this chapter;
  - (3)    Complied with the requirements of § 6009 of this chapter concerning the Child Protection Register check;
  - (4)    Received a satisfactory safety assessment of the prospective foster home; and
  - (5)    Demonstrated the willingness and ability to provide a safe and secure environment for a foster child;
- (d)    All adults residing in the prospective foster home have:
  - (1)    Received a satisfactory criminal records check from the III;

- (2) Applied for a criminal records check in accordance with § 6008 of this chapter; and
- (3) Complied with the requirements of § 6009 of this chapter concerning the Child Protection Register check;
- (e) [REPEALED]
- (f) A lead-based paint certificate has been obtained indicating no risk from lead-based paint for a home built before March 1, 1978, in which a foster child under six (6) years of age may be placed.

6027.2 Exigent circumstances exist if a child who would be placed in the home if it had a temporary license:

- (a) Must be removed from her or his home immediately because of suspected or supported child abuse or neglect;
- (b) Is in CFSA's custody and must be removed from her or his placement immediately; or
- (c) Has been removed from her or his home because of child abuse and neglect and a petition alleging neglect of the child has been filed with the Family Division of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 16-2305.

6027.3 An applicant is kin to a foster child if the applicant is:

- (a) At least 21 years of age; and
- (b) Either:
  - (1) A relative of the foster child by blood, marriage, or adoption; or
  - (2) Identified by a relative of the foster child by blood, marriage, or adoption, in a sworn affidavit, to have close personal or emotional ties with the foster child or the foster child's family, which predated the foster child's placement with the individual.

6027.4 A temporary license:

- (a) Permits a foster home to operate prior to issuance of an annual license and while the resource parent(s) attempts to satisfy the requirements for a license; and

- (b) Expires in one hundred and fifty (150) days from the date of the temporary license.

6027.5 A temporary license may be renewed once and for no more than ninety (90) days if the:

- (1) Applicant is making a good faith effort to comply with all elements of the foster home licensing process as set forth in this chapter;
- (2) Renewal is needed to complete the licensing process;
- (3) Licensing process is not completed for a reason that is beyond the control of the applicant; and
- (4) Applicant has otherwise complied with the requirements of this chapter.

6027.6 A temporary licensee under this section shall actively and promptly take all steps required for full licensure under this chapter.

6027.7 [REPEALED]

6027.8 Except as specifically set forth in this section, all sections of this chapter shall apply to a resource parent or foster home that has a temporary license except that the denial of a temporary license shall not be grounds for an appeal pursuant to § 6032.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 59 DCR 10669 (September 7, 2012); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 72 DCR 012099 (October 31, 2025).

**6028 LICENSING PROCESS**

6028.1 The licensing process includes the following:

- (a) An initial contact between an applicant and the agency;
- (b) The agency's provision of in-depth information about foster care in accordance with § 6028.2;
- (c) The opportunity for an applicant to assess his or her potential for resource parenting, including the number and characteristics of the foster children for whom the applicant is best suited;
- (d) The opportunity for the agency to study and assess a prospective household's potential for foster children, including the number and characteristics of the foster children for whom the household is best suited;
- (e) The applicant's completion of a foster parent application, using a form provided or approved by CFSA;
- (f) The applicant's completion of forms consenting to the release of confidential information;
- (g) The applicant's completion of information session in accordance with § 6026.1 and of thirty (30) hours of pre-service training in accordance with § 6026.2;
- (h) A home study in accordance with § 6028.3;
- (i) The agency's decision to recommend the licensure or denial of the applicant as a foster parent; and
- (j) CFSA's decision to approve or deny the applicant as a foster parent.

6028.2 The in-depth information about foster care provided by an agency to an applicant shall include, but is not limited to:

- (a) The definition and goals of foster care;
- (b) The differences between resource parenting, parenting one's own child, and adoption of a child;
- (c) The circumstances which may result in a child being placed in foster care;

- (d) The characteristics of children needing foster care placement, including problems and needs;
- (e) The characteristics of parents whose children are placed in foster care, their problems, needs, rights, and responsibilities, including visitation;
- (f) The roles and responsibilities of a foster parent to a foster child, the foster child's parents, the agency, and the foster parent's own family;
- (g) The roles and responsibilities of the agency to the foster parent, foster child, and their families;
- (h) The impact foster care may have on the foster parent and her or his family;
- (i) The impact that separation and placement have on a foster child, the foster child's family, and the foster parent and her or his family;
- (j) The nature and purpose of the agency's planning documents, including the permanency plan, the case plan, and the service agreement;
- (k) Explanation of the hierarchy of permanency plan options, which is in the following order:
  - (1) Return home to parents;
  - (2) Placement with relatives;
  - (3) Adoption; and
  - (4) Independent living;
- (l) The foster home requirements as set forth in this chapter of the DCMR;
- (m) The option to be considered as an adoptive home for children who have been placed in the foster home and for whom the permanency plan is adoption;
- (n) The legal, procedural, financial, medical, and educational aspects of foster care;
- (o) An overview of the processes, both within CFSA and by the Court, for the review of foster care cases and the foster parent's role in these processes;
- (p) CFSA's policy on discipline and behavior management as set forth in § 6018, including alternatives to physical discipline;

- (q) The requirement that a foster parent attend thirty (30) hours of pre-service training in accordance with § 6026.2 and at least thirty (30) hours of subsequent in-service training before the expiration of his or her license in accordance with § 6026.5; and
- (r) The importance of cultural competency and reinforcing the child's cultural identity.

6028.3 The home study shall include:

- (a) The applicant's submission of a completed application, using a form provided or approved by CFSA;
- (b) At least two (2) home visits by the agency with the prospective resource parent, one of which may be unannounced, with at least one of the visits including:
  - (1) All members of the household;
  - (2) A discussion of training; and
  - (3) An assessment and tour of the entire house;
- (c) Obtaining and reviewing at least three (3) written personal references that address the applicant's ability to care for children selected from relatives, neighbors, and employers or co-workers, if applicable. However, only one (1) of the three (3) references may be from a relative;
- (d) If a school-aged child is in the care of the applicant and resides in the prospective foster home, obtaining and reviewing written references from personnel of the child's school;
- (e) Discussing CFSA rules on discipline and behavior management as set forth in § 6018, and child abuse and neglect as set forth in § 6024, including the risk of physical or sexual victimization by another child and the responsibility of the resource parent for the safety of all children in her or his care;
- (f) Obtaining verification of income which may include but is not limited to copies of paystubs, current tax documents, bank statements, and proof of benefits;
- (g) Obtaining verification of marital, domestic partnership, or cohabitation status;
- (h) Conducting the criminal records check as set forth in § 6008;

- (i) Conducting the child protection register check as set forth in § 6009;
- (j) Obtaining a fire department inspection;
- (k) For homes in which a foster child under six (6) years of age may be placed, obtaining a lead-based paint certificate indicating no risk from lead-based paint;
- (l) Obtaining verification of current vaccinations for any pets in the home, as applicable;
- (m) Obtaining and reviewing documentation from a licensed physician or licensed, qualified health care professional that the applicant and any adult household member has had a complete medical examination and a tuberculosis screening within the previous twenty-four (24) months;
- (n) Obtaining and reviewing documentation from a licensed physician or licensed, qualified health care professional that the applicant and any adult household member has no physical or mental health condition that would negatively impact the safety and well-being of a foster child;
- (o) Obtaining and reviewing documentation from a licensed physician or licensed, qualified health care professional, for every household member under eighteen (18) years of age who is not a foster child, that the household member has had a complete medical examination consistent with the standards for the Early Periodic Screening and Diagnostic Testing (EPSDT) schedule (including up-to-date immunizations, a tuberculosis screening, and, if the household member is under six (6) years of age, a blood lead screening); and
- (p) Obtaining verification of stable housing which may include a copy of the mortgage statement, deed, title, lease, or rental agreement for the foster home in the name of a resource parent.

6028.4 If CFSA is not the agency:

- (a) The agency shall notify the applicant in writing, and within one hundred and fifty (150) days of the prospective resource parent beginning training, of its decision whether to recommend that the applicant be approved as a resource parent.
- (b) The agency shall submit a recommendation that the applicant be approved as a foster parent to CFSA within ten (10) business days of the notice required by paragraph (a) of this subsection.

- (c) Within fourteen (14) days of its receipt of the recommendation, CFSA shall review the agency recommendation, application, and accompanying documentation, and notify the applicant and agency in writing of its decision to approve or deny the application.
- 6028.5 If CFSA is the agency, it shall notify the applicant in writing and within one hundred and fifty (150) days of the prospective resource parent beginning training, of its decision to issue or deny the application.
- 6028.6 CFSA shall issue a license within three (3) business days of its decision to issue the license.
- 6028.7 A license shall renew for two (2) years from the date of the license, unless sooner revoked, suspended, or renewed, if there is:
- (a) Documentation of completed in-service training in accordance with § 6026.6;
  - (b) A satisfactory criminal records check for each adult resident of the foster home in accordance with § 6008;
  - (c) A satisfactory child protection register check for each adult resident of the foster home in accordance with § 6009; and
  - (d) All documentation required by § 6030 for re-evaluation and renewal;
- 6028.8 If there is more than one (1) family residing in the foster home, only one (1) family may be licensed to provide foster care.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 51 DCR 8609 (September 3, 2004); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 59 DCR 10669, 10671 (September 7, 2012); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6029 DENIAL OF LICENSE OR RENEWAL**

6029.1 CFSA shall deny an application for a license or a renewal if it determines that the applicant or resource parent cannot provide for the health, safety, or welfare of foster children. Factors to be considered in determining whether an applicant or resource parent can provide for the health, safety, or welfare of foster children include, but are not limited to:

- (a) The applicant, resource parent, household member, prospective foster home or foster home violates or fails to comply with any provision of this chapter of the DCMR;
- (b) CFSA's evaluation of the application reveals that the applicant or resource parent knowingly reported false information;
- (c) The applicant or resource parent has a history of regulatory violations which demonstrate an inability to provide for the health and safety of children;
- (d) A previous license or renewal was denied or revoked by CFSA;
- (e) The applicant or resource parent prevents CFSA or the agency from completing the application or renewal process; and
- (f) Abuse of alcohol or other controlled dangerous substances, mental instability, or ongoing health problems, by or of the applicant, resource parent, or a household member.

6029.2 CFSA may deny an application for a license or a renewal for other good cause.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 51 DCR 8609 (September 3, 2004); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6030 ANNUAL RE-EVALUATION AND LICENSE RENEWAL**

6030.1 The agency shall re-evaluate every two (2) years the ability of each resource parent and foster home to meet the requirements of this chapter of the DCMR.

6030.2 Re-evaluation shall include:

- (a) A thorough inspection of the foster home to assure continued compliance with this chapter of the DCMR;
- (b) At least one (1) interview with the resource parent;
- (c) Collection and review of all documentation required pursuant to § 6028.3;
- (d) Interviews with all social workers assigned to children placed in the foster home during the licensing period. The interviews shall include, but are not limited to:
  - (1) The appropriateness of the individual as a resource parent;
  - (2) The safety and well-being of each foster child in the home;
  - (3) Attachment and bonding among household members;
  - (4) The willingness and ability of the resource parent to comply with CFSA and agency directives;
  - (5) The resource parent's compliance with this chapter of the DCMR;
  - (6) The willingness and ability of the resource parent to meet the foster child's needs; and
  - (7) Engagement of the foster child with the community as measured by school, church, clubs, or civic group activity.
- (e) Review of:
  - (1) The results of any investigation conducted pursuant to this chapter;
  - (2) Any complaints concerning the provision of care; and
  - (3) Cooperation with assigned social workers, teachers, therapists, police, and others involved in the foster child's case; and

- (f) Identification of any additional supports that may be needed by the resource parent.

6030.3 The documentation required for the re-evaluation and renewal shall be provided by the resource parent to the agency at least thirty (30) calendar days before the expiration of the current license and shall include:

- (a) Documentation of completed in-service training in accordance with § 6026.5 and § 6026.12;
- (b) A criminal records check for each individual required to have a criminal records check in accordance with § 6008;
- (c) A child protection register check for each individual required to have a child protection register check in accordance with § 6009;
- (d) A clean hands certification dated within ninety (90) days preceding the expiration date of the current license;
- (e) Documentation from a physician or other licensed, qualified health care professional that the resource parent and any other adult household member has had a complete medical examination within twenty-four (24) months (including a tuberculosis screening) and has no medical conditions that would contraindicate the resource parent's appropriateness to serve as a resource parent;
- (f) Documentation from a physician or other licensed, qualified health care professional, for every household member under eighteen (18) years of age who is not a foster child, that the household member has had a complete medical examination consistent with the standards for the Early Periodic Screening and Diagnostic Testing (EPSDT) schedule (including up- to-date immunizations, a tuberculosis screening, and, if the household member is under six (6) years of age, a blood lead screening); and
- (g) A current vaccination record for every dog and cat in the foster home.

6030.4 If the agency is not CFSA, the agency's recommendation as to whether to renew the license shall be completed and received by CFSA at least forty-five (45) days before the anniversary date of the foster home's initial license. CFSA shall complete its review and determine whether to renew the license no more than fifteen (15) days after receipt of the agency's recommendation.

6030.5 If the agency is CFSA, CFSA shall complete the re-evaluation and determine whether to renew the license at least thirty (30) days prior to the anniversary date of the initial license.

6030.6 CFSA shall issue a renewal within three (3) business days of its decision to renew the license.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 51 DCR 8609 (September 3, 2004); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 59 DCR 10669, 10672 (September 7, 2012); as amended by Foster Parent Training Regulation Amendment Act of 2018, effective March 22, 2019 (D.C. Law 22-253; 66 DCR 1331 (February 1, 2019)); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6031 SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE**

6031.1 If, as a result of an investigation undertaken pursuant to § 6024, or through any other means, CFSA finds evidence of gross incompetence, misconduct in operating the foster home, supported neglect or abuse of children, or any other condition that poses an immediate threat to the health or safety of foster children, CFSA shall immediately:

- (a) Suspend the license;
- (b) Remove any foster child who remains in the foster home; and
- (c) Begin steps to revoke the license.

6031.2 If, as a result of an investigation undertaken pursuant to § 6024, or through any other means, CFSA finds evidence of any condition that may pose a threat to the health or safety of foster children if not remedied, CFSA may immediately suspend a license for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days.

6031.3 CFSA may extend the suspension period under § 6031.2 for no more than an additional thirty (30) days if the extension is necessary to remedy the condition for which the license was suspended.

6031.4 In lieu of an immediate suspension pursuant to § 6031.2, CFSA may notify a resource parent of its intent to suspend the license if the condition is not remedied by a specific date not to exceed thirty (30) days. If the condition is not remedied by the date, CFSA may suspend the license pursuant to § 6031.2, but may not extend the suspension period in accordance with § 6031.3.

6031.5 Except for a suspension under § 6031.1, by the end of the suspension period, CFSA shall:

- (a) Revoke a suspended license if the condition is not remedied; or
- (b) Restore a suspended licensure if the condition is remedied.

6031.6 If a license is revoked:

- (a) No agency may place any foster child in the foster home; and
- (b) If any foster child remains in the home, the foster child shall be removed immediately.

6031.7 If a license is suspended:

- (a) No agency may place any child in the foster home; and

- (b) Each foster child shall be removed from the home by the end of the suspension period if the condition is not remedied.

6031.8 In the event of a planned revocation or suspension, at least ten (10) business days before the planned date, CFSA shall send the resource parent a notice of intended action that includes:

- (a) The intended action;
- (b) A statement of the specific rule violated; and
- (c) A statement describing the resource parent's right to appeal.

6031.9 Within five (5) business days after the suspension or revocation of a license, CFSA shall send the resource parent a notice that includes:

- (a) The action;
- (b) A statement of the specific rule violated; and
- (c) A statement describing the resource parent's right to appeal.

6031.10 Unless CFSA has removed a foster child from the foster home pursuant to §§ 6024 or 6031.1 or if the revocation is a planned revocation, CFSA shall immediately remove each foster child from a foster home when a license is revoked unless CFSA sent the resource parent a notice of intended action pursuant to § 6031.8 and the resource parent filed an appeal within ten (10) days of the notice.

6031.11 Once suspended or revoked, a license may not be restored, a foster home license may not be renewed, and foster children may not be placed in the home unless:

- (a) There has been a hearing decision favorable to the resource parent; or
- (b) The Director or designate has given written approval.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 51 DCR 8609 (September 3, 2004); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6032 APPEAL PROCEDURE**

6032.1 A person aggrieved by a decision of CFSA to deny, suspend or revoke a license or the renewal of a license may appeal the decision in accordance with 29 DCMR Chapter 59.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001).

**6033 BACK-UP CAREGIVER**

- 6033.1 The resource parent shall identify a back-up caregiver to provide care and supervision, including short-term overnight care, for a foster child if the resource parent needs to be away from the foster home on an irregular basis.
- 6033.2 Unless the back-up caregiver is licensed to provide care to a foster child by the District of Columbia, Maryland, or Virginia the back-up caregiver shall:
- (a) Be twenty-one (21) years of age or older;
  - (b) Have knowledge of, interest in, and regard for the principles of good child care and understanding of the back-up caregiver's responsibility in providing care for a foster child; and
  - (c) Have the suitability, stamina, and physical and mental health to meet the demands of serving as the back-up caregiver for a foster child.
- 6033.3 The back-up caregiver and all adults residing in the back-up caregiver's home shall obtain a child protection register check in accordance with § 6009.
- 6033.4 The back-up caregiver and all adults residing in the back-up caregiver's home shall obtain a criminal record check in accordance with § 6008.
- 6033.5 The back-up caregiver shall be approved by the agency before providing care and supervision for a foster child.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 59 DCR 10669, 10672 (September 7, 2012); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6034 EXTENDED CAREGIVER**

- 6034.1 The resource parent shall identify an extended caregiver to provide care and supervision for a foster child if the resource parent is absent from the home on a regular basis, such as for employment.
- 6034.2 Unless the extended caregiver is licensed to provide care to a foster child by the District of Columbia or Maryland, the extended caregiver shall:
- (a) Be eighteen (18) years of age or older;
  - (b) Have knowledge of, interest in, and regard for the principles of good child care and understanding of the back-up caregiver's responsibility in providing care for a foster child; and
  - (c) Have the suitability, stamina, and physical and mental health to meet the demands of serving as the back-up caregiver for a foster child.
- 6034.3 The extended caregiver and all adults residing in the extended caregiver's home shall obtain a child protection register check in accordance with § 6009.
- 6034.4 The extended caregiver and all adults residing in the extended caregiver's home shall obtain a criminal record check in accordance with § 6008.
- 6034.5 The extended caregiver shall be approved by the agency before providing care and supervision for a foster child.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6035 LEAD-BASED PAINT HAZARDS**

- 6035.1 A foster home built before 1978 in which a foster child under six (6) years of age may be placed shall be maintained free of lead-based paint hazards.
- 6035.2 A foster home shall be inspected for lead-based paint hazards if:
- (a) The foster home was built before March 1, 1978; and
  - (b) A foster child under six (6) years of age may be placed in the foster home.
- 6035.3 The lead-based paint inspection report shall be conducted by a Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) or DOEE accredited or certified lead-based inspector or risk assessor.
- 6035.4 If the lead-based paint inspection indicates the presence of a lead-based paint hazard in the home, a foster child of any age may not be placed in the home until the lead-based paint hazard has been abated in accordance with District law and regulations.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).

**6099**            **DEFINITIONS**

6099.1            The following terms and phrases shall have the meanings described:

**"Activities of daily living"** - Eating, dressing, clothing, and grooming.

**"Adult"** – A person, other than a foster child in the care and custody of CFSA, who is eighteen (18) years of age or older.

**"Agency"** - The entity under which an applicant seeks to be a resource parent or under which a foster home operates, which may be either CFSA or a child-placing agency.

**"Applicant"** - the person(s) applying to be licensed as a resource parent, including as appropriate the person applying for a temporary license, under this Chapter.

**"Back-up caregiver"** – An individual, identified by the resource parent and approved by the agency pursuant to § 6033.5, to provide care and supervision, including short-term overnight care, of a foster child in the resource parent’s absence on an irregular basis.

**"Babysitter"** – An individual who supervises and cares for a child on an occasional or infrequent basis.

**"Business day"** - Monday through Friday excluding legal holidays.

**"CFSA"** - The District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency.

**"Child"** - A foster child or any other person under eighteen (18) years of age residing in a foster home.

**"Child-placing agency"** - A child-placing agency licensed under the laws of the District of Columbia.

**"Child protection register"** - The confidential index of all reports of suspected child abuse or neglect established pursuant to The Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, effective September 23, 1977 (D.C. Law 2-22, title II, § 201), or its equivalent in another jurisdiction.

**"Clean hands certification"** – The certification that an applicant does not owe certain outstanding debts to the District of Columbia government as required by Section 47-2861 *et seq.* of the District of Columbia Official Code..

**“Cohabiting”** – The act of two (2) adults, unmarried to each other, living together in an intimate relationship as if married.

**"Court"** - Family Division of the District of Columbia Superior Court.

**"DC KIDS"** - The integrated health care system operated by CFSA.

**"Director"** - The Director of CFSA.

**“Domestic partner”** – The meaning as provided in Section 2(3) of the Health Care Benefits Expansion Act of 1992, effective June 11, 1992 (D.C. Law 9-114; D.C. Official Code § 32-701(3)).

**“Domestic partnership”** – The meaning as provided in Section 2(4) of the Health Care Benefits Expansion Act of 1992, effective June 11, 1992 (D.C. Law 9-114; D.C. Official Code § 32-701(4)).

**“Extended caregiver”** – An individual identified by the resource parent and approved by the agency pursuant to § 6034.5, to provide care and supervision for a foster child when the resource parent is absent from the home on a regular basis such as for employment.

**"Firearm"** - Has the meaning set forth in the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975, effective September 24, 1976 (D.C. Law 1-85).

**"Foster care"** - Continuous 24-hour care and supportive services provided for a minor in the legal custody or guardianship of CFSA while the child needs substitute care.

**"Foster care board and care payment"** - Payment provided by CFSA for the provision of care to a foster child in a foster home.

**"Foster child"** - A child who is in foster care.

**"Foster home"** - The residence at which a resource parent is licensed to provide care to a foster child under this chapter of the DCMR.

**"Foster parent"** - An individual who is licensed to provide care in a foster home to a foster child pursuant to this chapter of the DCMR.

**“Frequent visitor”** – An individual who visits the home on a regular or recurring basis and has direct access to a foster child or is an overnight visitor to the foster home on a regular or recurring basis.

**“Health care”** – Includes medical, mental, surgical, dental, or psychiatric evaluation or treatment.

**"Home visit"** - A visit by CFSA or the agency to the prospective foster home in order to interview household members and to assess the community environment and the sleeping and living arrangements.

**"Household"** - A residence and all individuals residing within the residence.

**"Household member"** – An individual regardless of age, who for thirty (30) consecutive or nonconsecutive days, resides in the home, moves into the home with the intent to make it their residence, or visits the home on an overnight basis or sleeps in the home.

**"Lead-based paint hazard"** – The meaning as provided in Section 2(22) of the Lead-Hazard Prevention Elimination Act of 2008, effective March 31, 2009 (D.C. Law 17-381; D.C. Official Code § 8-231.01(22)).

**"LGBTQ"** – A person who self-identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender nonconforming, queer, or questioning their sexual orientation or gender identify and expression.

**"LGBTQIA+"** – A person who self-identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender nonconforming, queer, questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression, intersex or asexual. It also includes a person who does not identify with one of these terms but whose sexual orientation, gender, or gender expression is characterized by non-binary constructs of sexual orientation, gender, or sex.

**"License"** - Permission granted to an applicant by CFSA to operate a foster home as a foster parent under this chapter of the DCMR.

**"Minor"** - An individual who is under twenty-one (21) years of age.

**"Parent surrogate"** - A person appointed to represent the interests of a child with a disability in the educational decision-making process pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 USC §§ 1410-1420) and its implementing regulations.

**"Re-evaluation"** - The process of examining a foster parent and foster home as part of the determination of whether to renew a license.

**"Resource parent"** – An individual who is licensed to provide care in a foster home to a foster child pursuant to this chapter. A resource parent may also be referred to as a resource parent.

**"Revocation"** - The taking back of a license by CFSA because of a failure to comply with the requirements of this chapter of the DCMR.

**Safety assessment"** - an assessment of an applicant's residence, including but not limited to its general physical environment, sanitation and external environment.

**"Smoking"** – The inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying of a lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, electronic smoking device, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for human consumption through inhalation, in any manner or in any form.

**"Substitute caregiver"** – A back-up caregiver or extended caregiver.

**"Temporary license"** - a license to operate a foster home for a temporary period issued to a foster home that has complied with the requirements of § 6027 of this chapter.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 48 DCR 6617 (July 27, 2001); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 52 DCR 6830 (July 22, 2005); as amended by Foster Parent Training Regulation Amendment Act of 2018, effective March 22, 2019 (D.C. Law 22-253; 66 DCR 1331 (February 1, 2019)); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 71 DCR 002859 (March 15, 2024).