



<b>POLICY TITLE:</b>		<b>Resource Parent Training</b>	
 		<b>CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY</b>	
<b>Approved By:</b>	<b>Date Approved:</b>	<b>Original Effective Date:</b>	<b>Last Revision:</b>
Robert L. Matthews	November 24, 2022	May 10, 2013	October 13, 2021

<b>I. AUTHORITY</b>	The Director of the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA or Agency) adopts this policy to be consistent with the Agency’s mission and applicable federal and District of Columbia laws and regulations, including Chapters 16 and 60 of Title 29 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, specifically § 6026 and §1641 (Foster Parent Training). <b><i>This policy supersedes the Resource Parent Training Policy, dated May 7, 2013.</i></b>
<b>II. APPLICABILITY</b>	This policy is applicable to Agency staff and all CFSA non-contracted and contracted private agency resource parents.
<b>III. RATIONALE</b>	CFSA’s mission is to promote the safety, permanency, and well-being of children in foster care, as well as their potential to achieve positive outcomes for self-sufficiency, security, and adulthood. Safety is paramount and is directly impacted by CFSA’s capacity to ensure quality support systems and resources. Licensed foster, kinship, and pre-adoptive parents (henceforth referred to as “resource parents”) who receive training in the needs of CFSA clients are a key component of the Agency’s capacity to fulfill its charge and mission.
<b>IV. POLICY</b>	It is the policy of CFSA and its Child Welfare Training Academy (CWTA) to provide a full complement of competency-based training activities to prepare resources parents to care for CFSA’s children and to ensure their safety and wellbeing and to prepare them for permanency. A range of parenting and child care trainings are offered and approved by CWTA. The trainings are designed to enhance specific skills necessary to provide care to the foster care population and to address individualized training needs for children. This policy provides an overview of the pre-service and in-service training requirements and processes.
<b>V. CONTENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A.</b> Criteria for Training</li> <li><b>B.</b> Pre-Service Training</li> <li><b>C.</b> In-Service Training</li> <li><b>D.</b> External Resource Parent Training Approval</li> <li><b>E.</b> Data Entry</li> <li><b>F.</b> Inclement Weather and Other Emergency Closings</li> </ul>

<p><b>VI. GUIDELINES</b></p>	<p><b>Section A: Criteria for Training</b></p> <p>For purposes of this policy, “training” means a planned and organized activity designed to impart knowledge, skills, techniques, and methodologies to a resource parent or a group of resource parents (see <a href="#">Resource Parent Training Standards and Guidelines</a>). Qualified experts provide training in a classroom or virtual setting to assist resource parents in maintaining the safety, stability, and well-being of CFSA children who reside in foster homes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The following activities do not fulfill the (CWTA) approved training criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The viewing of television programs or movies,</li> <li>b. The reading of articles from popular magazines or newspapers, or</li> <li>c. Purely recreational activities.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. All training curricula and courses must be approved by CWTA or a CWTA-authorized group to be deemed in compliance with annual resource parent training requirements.</li> </ol> <p><b>Note:</b> <i>Unapproved trainings will not count towards licensure or re- licensure.</i></p>
	<p><b>Section B: Pre-Service Training</b></p> <p>All prospective resource parents, primary caregivers, spouses, and significant others (e.g., paramours and partners) must complete mandatory pre-service training using an approved curriculum. The pre-service training curricula provided by CFSA’s Family Licensing Division (FLD) or private agencies must follow nationally-recognized training modalities.</p> <p>Training curricula must be approved by FLD to be acceptable.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Resource parents must complete a minimum of 30 hours of resource parent training.</li> <li>2. The pre-service training reinforces the basic tenets of the Agency’s Practice Model and includes teaming between CFSA or private agencies and the resource parents. At a minimum, pre-service training shall cover the following information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Relevant statutes, rules, policies, and procedures applicable to providing foster care to children in CFSA’s care and custody.</li> <li>b. Roles and relationships between CFSA or private agency personnel, resource parents, children in foster care, and the foster child’s biological family.</li> <li>c. The importance of the child’s family and the child’s relationship with them, including intentional visitation.</li> <li>d. Developmental needs of children in foster care.</li> <li>e. Awareness of cultural and religious differences.</li> <li>f. Child behavior management and discipline techniques.</li> <li>g. Child abuse and neglect, including prevention, reporting, investigation, and services.</li> <li>h. Supportive services available in the community for children in foster care as well as for their families and resource parents, including mental health services and summer camps.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. CPR/First Aid.</li> <li>j. Resource Parent’s self-awareness.</li> <li>k. Communication skills of the resource parent.</li> <li>l. Problem solving.</li> <li>m. The licensure process, including CFSA’s internal processes.</li> <li>n. The general court process as it relates to children in foster care.</li> <li>o. The ‘reasonable and prudent parenting standard’ as to parental decisions around participation of the child in age or developmentally-appropriate activities<sup>1</sup>.</li> </ul> <p>3. During pre-service training, information about in-service training requirements should be communicated to participants.</p> <p>4. Upon completion of pre-service training, the applicant will receive a certificate of completion.</p>
	<p><b>Section C: In-Service Training</b></p> <p>All in-service training must be approved and fall within the guidelines established by CWTA and this policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CWTA will offer in-service training for all resource parents, whether licensed by CFSA or a private agency. In-service training may also be acquired through third-party online or classroom courses <i>which must be pre-approved by CWTA</i>.</li> <li>2. To maintain a current license, all licensed resource parents must complete 30 hours of in-service training within a two-year time span from licensure or re-licensure. (The two-year window for calculating training hours begins on the actual date of full licensure).</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Resource parents may take up to nine hours of CWTA sponsored or approved online training to meet their requirements. No more than nine hours of online training will be counted towards meeting CWTA’s in-service training requirement.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Resource parents should complete training that is appropriate to the age and special needs of the foster children in their homes and training that is supportive to the children CFSA serves. Training includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Classroom learning that is specifically linked to the CFSA Practice Model</li> <li>b. CWTA-approved online training courses</li> <li>c. Specialized training approved by CWTA on a case-by-case basis to meet children’s needs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> <i>Private agencies must adhere to the standards set forth for approval of external trainings (see Procedure D).</i></p>

<sup>1</sup> This includes knowledge and skills relating to the developmental stages of the cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities of a child, and applying the standard to decisions such as whether to allow the child to engage in social, extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities, including sports, field trips and overnight activities lasting one or more days and involving the signing of permission slips and arranging transportation for the child to and from extracurricular enrichment and social activities.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. All licensed individuals in the home must complete the required in-service training hours.</li> <li>5. FLD monitors in-service training for all resource parents licensed through CFSA. In-service training for resource parents licensed by a private agency will be monitored through CFSA’s designated contract monitoring unit.</li> <li>6. Private agencies will notify resource parents of available CWTA-approved training. Private agencies, however, may require additional training outside of CFSA’s requirements prior to re-licensing.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Section D: External Resource Parent Training Approval</b></p> <p>CWTA must maintain an external resource parent training approval process that serves as a quality assurance strategy to ensure that all external training reflect best practice, align with the CFSA Practice Model and pre-service training, and reinforce learning that supports the safety, well-being, and permanence of the children.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All private agencies must submit all training curricula or courses to CWTA for approval at least 30 days prior to execution to ensure that the training is approved and will count toward the in-service training requirement.</li> <li>2. FLD will ensure that resource parents obtain approval from CWTA prior to enrolling or participating in any non-CWTA approved training to ensure that the training will count toward the in-service training requirement.</li> <li>3. If any training does not follow the standards set forth by this policy and the attached <i>Resource Parent Training Standards and Guidelines</i>, it will be incumbent on the resource parent to take the additional number of hours of training to meet the licensure requirements. FLD will ensure that the resource parent is informed of the approval process and CWTA decisions regarding training.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Section E: Data Entry</b></p> <p>CWTA will collect, log, and enter data (including the number of training hours) of all training certificates of CFSA and private provider resource homes.</p>
	<p><b>Section F: Inclement Weather and Other Emergency Closings</b></p> <p>In the event of inclement weather or other emergency closings, CWTA must notify resource parents of delays or cancellations of any training courses.</p>