

Child and Family Services Agency

Notice of Final Rulemaking

The Director of the Child and Family Services Agency (hereinafter “CFSA”), acting pursuant to the Child and Family Services Agency Establishment Amendment Act of 2000, effective April 4, 2001, D.C. Law 13-277, the Adoption and Safe Families Amendment Act of 2000, effective June 27, 2000, D.C. Law 13-136 (“ASFA”), the Youth Residential Facilities Licensure Act of 1986, effective August 13, 1986, D.C. Law 6-139, and Mayor’s Order 86-202, dated November 12, 1986 (“Delegation of Authority Pursuant to D.C. Law 6-139, the Youth Residential Facilities Licensure Act of 1986”), hereby gives notice of adoption of the following new Chapter 60 of Title 29 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations.

The new Chapter establishes criteria and procedures for the licensing of foster homes which serve children in the care and custody of CFSA consistent with: Modified Final Order and Implementation Plan, *LaShawn A. v. Williams*, Part XV.E. (November 18, 1993); Title IV, Part E of the Social Security Act, approved August 14, 1935 (49 Stat. 627; Pub. L. 74-217), as added by the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980, approved June 17, 1980 (94 Stat. 501; Pub. L. 96-272 (42 U.S.C. §670 et seq.)) and as implemented in 45 C.F.R. §1355.10 et seq.; ASFA; and, the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act, approved October 21, 1968 (82 Stat. 1204; Pub. L. 90-614 (D.C. Code § 1-1501 et seq.)).

This rule was originally published in the D.C. Register on March 23, 2001 at 48 DCR 2597. Following consideration of the comments received concerning the proposed rules, CFSA made several changes to the proposed rules. Because some of the changes were substantive, CFSA republished the rules as proposed in the D.C. Register on May 25, 2001. CFSA has not made any changes to the proposed rules.

Title 29 DCMR is amended by adding the following new Chapter 60:

CHAPTER 60

FOSTER HOMES

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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.

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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.

6001 FOSTER 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 foster 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 foster parent's;
- (e) The capacity to value, respect, appreciate, and educate a foster child regarding the child's racial, ethnic, religious, and cultural heritage;
- (f) The capacity to understand that it is in the best interest of a foster child of mixed racial parentage to have healthy multiracial experiences;
- (g) The suitability and stamina to meet the demands of caring for growing foster children;

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- (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 provide time free from the interference of other responsibilities, and to give a foster child the needed care and attention;
- (j) The ability to provide a nurturing family life and meet the needs of a foster child, notwithstanding any employment 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 foster parent and all household members shall be in good health as documented by a health examination within the previous twenty-four (24) months.

6001.4 If a foster parent or household member has symptoms or a history of physical or mental health problems or has recently been under the care of a physician for either of the above, CFSA or the agency may require the individual to:

- (a) Undergo additional medical examinations of a general or specific nature; or
- (b) Provide a written statement by the examining or treating physician to the effect that the health problem poses no threat to the foster child.

6001.5 A foster parent and all household members shall be free of disease in communicable form, as certified by a physician. Each child in the household shall be in compliance with the immunization requirements of the jurisdiction in which the foster home is located.

6001.6 A foster 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.

6001.7 A criminal records check and a child protection register clearance shall be performed as set forth in §§ 6008 and 6009.

6002 FOSTER PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

6002.1 A foster parent shall:

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- (a) Provide parental supervision and guidance appropriate to the foster child's age and developmental level;
- (b) Provide daily essentials that are 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;
- (c) 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;
- (d) Respect the foster child and the foster child's family;
- (e) 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;
- (f) Involve the foster child in household activities;
- (g) Establish clear expectations for and limits on behavior, understand and deal with negative behavior in a positive way, and reward good behavior;
- (h) Provide or arrange 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;
- (i) Participate in the foster child's educational process;
- (j) Participate in the foster child's mental, physical, and dental health care, and request and maintain a copy of a record from each health care visit;
- (k) Have a plan for the substitute care and supervision of each foster child by a licensed foster parent or day care provider, or the equivalent in the jurisdiction in which that substitute care is provided, when the foster parent is absent from the home on a regular basis, such as for employment;
- (l) Use baby-sitters who are sixteen (16) years of age or older. Babysitters shall be used for a reasonable amount of time, considering the age and level of functioning of the foster child;

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- (m) Utilize only substitute caregivers and babysitters in whom the foster parent has confidence that the person can appropriately care for the foster child;
- (n) Give at least 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;
- (o) Immediately report to CFSA and the agency any suspected incident of child abuse or neglect;
- (p) Abide by the rules on discipline and control as set forth in § 6018;
- (q) Notify CFSA and the agency of any criminal charges, investigations, or findings related to any crime alleged to have been committed by a household member;
- (r) Assist in preparing the foster child to accept her or his permanency plan and any move from the foster home; and
- (s) Maintain the confidentiality of information about the foster child and the foster child's family in accordance with § 6023.

6002.2

A foster parent, in accordance with a foster child's case plan, shall:

- (a) 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;
- (b) Maintain an attitude of respect and understanding towards the foster child's parents and family;
- (c) Tell the foster child's parents about events and happenings in the foster child's daily life;
- (d) Serve as a role model for the foster child's parents; and
- (e) Transmit information about the foster child or the foster child's family only in accordance with §§ 6002.2(c) and 6023.

6002.3

A foster parent shall fulfill her or his obligations to the agency by:

- (a) Participating in training required and approved by the agency;
- (b) Working as a team member in assessing a foster child's strengths and needs, and in implementing the foster child's case plan;

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- (c) Keeping the agency aware of the foster child’s development and adjustment;
- (d) Attending case reviews and meetings as requested by the agency;
- (e) Maintaining the standards of foster care required by this chapter of the DCMR;
- (f) Notifying the agency for any overnight trips of more than one hundred (100) miles from the District of Columbia that the foster parent would like the foster child to take; and
- (g) Notifying the agency immediately of any change or anticipated change for the foster parent or within the foster home concerning:
 - (1) Employment;
 - (2) Child care arrangements;
 - (3) Composition of the household;
 - (4) Finances;
 - (5) Residence or telephone number;
 - (6) Health status;
 - (7) Marital status; or
 - (8) Any other change which may affect the stability of the foster home or of the foster child’s placement in the foster home.

6002.4 A foster 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 foster parent, or a current or former foster child who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, or another adult with whom the foster parent has close personal or emotional ties.

6002.5 A foster parent may not provide child day care unless CFSA has determined in writing that the foster 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 care and supervision of each foster child in the home.

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6002.6 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.

6003 AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY TO FOSTER PARENT

6003.1 The agency shall:

- (a) Provide the foster parent with accurate information about the foster child, including the reason the foster child is in foster care, within three (3) business days after placement;
- (b) Provide the foster parent with medical records, including immunization records, for the foster child, within three (3) business days of placement;
- (c) Help the foster parent to understand her or his rights and responsibilities;
- (d) Include the foster parent in the development of any service agreements for each foster child in her or his care;
- (e) Inform the foster parent of the foster child's permanency plan, keep the foster parent updated as to the progress of the achievement of that plan, and allow the foster parent to provide input into the plan;
- (f) Explain payment criteria, including foster care board and care payments, clothing allowance, and any supplemental expenditures made to meet the foster child's needs;
- (g) Evaluate the foster parent's ability to provide for the needs of the household on a case by case basis. If a foster parent has a financial problem, CFSA or the agency may assist the foster parent in accessing assistance through community resources;
- (h) Provide 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;
- (i) Respond as soon as possible to crisis situations that may arise from the foster child's placement in the foster home;
- (j) Assist the foster parent in preparation for the separation of the foster child from foster care placement;
- (k) Explain and provide pre-service and in-service training;

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- (l) Assist the foster parent in the selection, preparation, and completion of in-service foster parent training;
- (m) Re-evaluate the foster parent and foster home annually and whenever there are major changes in the foster parent's ability to care for foster children or in the foster home, and recommend either renewal, suspension, or revocation of the license as appropriate;
- (n) Act in accordance with § 6024 when abuse or neglect is suspected in a foster home; and
- (o) Obtain and maintain all pertinent records on the foster parent and each foster child for whom the foster parent has cared.

6003.2 The foster child's social worker shall maintain regular contact with the foster parent and the foster child. For a foster child placed in a foster home:

- (a) During the first eight (8) weeks after a foster child is placed in the foster home, the social worker shall visit the foster child in the foster home as frequently as is necessary to assure the foster child's adjustment to the placement but no less frequently than once a week;
- (b) After the eighth week, the social worker shall visit the foster child in the foster home as frequently as is necessary but no less frequently than once every two (2) weeks;
- (c) Every visit shall include a private visit with the foster child outside the presence of the foster parent except in those cases where the foster child is less than eighteen (18) months of age; and
- (d) The contacts shall be more frequent when, in the social worker's professional judgment, it is appropriate.

6004 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FOSTER CHILDREN LIVING IN FOSTER HOMES

6004.1 A foster child living in a foster home has the right to:

- (a) Have her or his health, safety, and welfare be the primary consideration in implementing these rules;
- (b) Be consulted about or informed of all decisions made on his or her behalf as appropriate to the foster child's age;

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- (c) Safety and protection;
- (d) Opportunities to develop emotionally, socially, physically, educationally, culturally, and spiritually in a nurturing environment;
- (e) Information about the reason for the foster child’s placement, and help in developing an explanation of the foster child’s situation to others;
- (f) Help in dealing with the effects of separation;
- (g) Opportunities for continued connection with the foster child’s family and others with whom the foster child has had meaningful relationships, unless such a connection would be harmful to the child’s health or safety; and
- (h) Return to the foster child’s family or be placed in another permanent placement as expeditiously as possible consistent with the foster child’s case plan.

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; and
- (c) Following appropriate minimum personal care and hygiene standards consistent with the foster child’s physical and developmental capabilities.

6004.3 Nothing in this section of the DCMR shall be read to limit any other right, privilege, or opportunity provided to a foster child under this chapter of the DCMR or any other provision of law or policy.

6005 FOSTER HOME CAPACITY

6005.1 A foster 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:

- (a) May not exceed six (6) children;

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(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;
or

(c) Chronically wheelchair bound.

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.

6006 TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

6006.1 A foster 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 foster 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 foster parent shall allow a foster child to be transported only by responsible persons who possess valid driver's licenses.

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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 are opened.
- 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, non-coin operated, telephone.
- 6007.7 A foster parent shall store all medications, poisonous chemicals, and hazardous materials in locked storage out of the reach of children.
- 6007.8 A foster parent shall store alcoholic beverages 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 foster parent shall have comprehensive first aid supplies, including at a minimum, syrup of ipecac, Band-Aids, rubbing alcohol, peroxide, and the phone number for poison control.
- 6007.11 A foster 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 and licensed.
- 6007.12 A foster home shall have no more pets than can be cared for appropriately,

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consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the children, and the size and location of the foster home.

- 6007.13 A foster parent shall maintain a kitchen with the necessary 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.
- 6007.16 A foster child's bedroom shall have at least two (2) means of egress, each on a different side of the room.
- 6007.17 A foster child under fourteen (14) years of age may not sleep in a bedroom located in the basement.
- 6007.18 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 fifty (150) square feet for three (3) foster children.
- 6007.19 CFSA may license a foster home with bedrooms that do not meet the general guidelines in § 6007.18 if CFSA finds and has documented that the available space is adequate to provide for safety, privacy, and comfort of each foster child.
- 6007.20 No more than three (3) children may share a room regardless of the room's size.
- 6007.21 No foster child over the age of five (5) may share a room with a child of the opposite gender.
- 6007.22 No foster child over eighteen (18) months of age may share a bedroom with an adult.
- 6007.23 A foster parent or a responsible adult shall sleep within call of each foster child as appropriate to the foster child's age, capabilities, and individual needs.

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- 6007.24 A foster 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 may not be a cot, sofa, or any type of portable bed.
- 6007.25 A foster parent shall provide each foster child with a clean non-toxic mattress, waterproof cover (as necessary), clean bed linens, and sufficient blankets and pillows.
- 6007.26 A foster parent shall provide sufficient individual storage space for each foster child's clothing and other personal belongings.
- 6007.27 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.
- 6007.28 A foster 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.

6008 CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK

- 6008.1 As part of the home study process, an agency shall ensure that each applicant and any other person eighteen (18) years of age or older residing in the home comply with the requirements for a criminal records check established by the Adoption and Safe Families Amendment Act of 2000, effective June 27, 2000, D.C. Law 13-136.
- 6008.2 The following individuals shall apply for a criminal records check as part of the home study process:
- (a) An applicant; and
 - (b) Any other person eighteen (18) years of age or older residing in a prospective foster home.
- 6008.3 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.

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6008.4 Except as provided in § 6008.5, CFSA may not license an individual as a foster parent if that individual or any person eighteen (18) years of age or older 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) Spousal abuse;

(4) A crime against children, including child pornography; or

(5) A crime involving violence, including but not limited to, rape, sexual assault, homicide, 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) Fraud; or

(2) A drug-related offense.

6008.5 Notwithstanding a conviction as set forth in § 6008.4, CFSA may license an individual as a foster parent if it determines, after the individual's satisfactory completion of all other requirements of this chapter of the DCMR 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 of the DCMR and the health, safety, and welfare of the children.

6008.6 A criminal records check shall be performed once every two (2) years as part of the annual re-evaluation and license renewal.

6009 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER CHECK

6009.1 As part of the home study process, an agency shall receive a clearance from the District's child protection register and from the child protection registers in every state in which any of the persons listed in § 6009.2 resided or worked from the time the person was eighteen (18) years of age or older.

6009.2 The following individuals shall apply for a child protection register clearance:

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(a) An applicant; and

(b) Any other person eighteen (18) years of age or older residing in the prospective foster home.

6009.3 Except as provided in § 6009.4, CFSA may not license an individual as a foster parent if that individual or any person eighteen (18) years of age or older residing in the prospective foster home is:

(a) Identified as a possible abuser or neglecter in an open child abuse or neglect case; or

(b) Identified as the abuser or neglecter in a supported case of child abuse or neglect.

6009.4 Notwithstanding § 6009.3, CFSA may license an individual as a foster parent if it determines, after the individual's satisfactory completion of all other requirements of this chapter of the DCMR 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 of the DCMR and the health, safety, and welfare of the children.

6009.5 A child protection register check shall be performed once every year as part of the renewal process.

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 hallways within ten (10) feet of each bedroom.

6010.4 A foster home shall have a portable dry chemical fire extinguisher on every floor of the home.

6010.5 A foster parent shall develop a fire evacuation plan and share it with all household members who are capable of understanding.

6010.6 A foster parent shall store combustible items away from sources of heat.

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6010.7 A foster home shall have two (2) means of egress that provide unrestricted exit in case of fire.

6011 SANITATION

6011.1 A foster parent shall keep the home clean and free of hazards and debris.

6011.2 A foster 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°) Fahrenheit at the outlet.

6011.5 A foster parent shall take measures to keep the house and premises free of rodents and insects. If evidence of rodents or insects is present, the foster parent shall have the home exterminated within five (5) days and shall have documentation of the extermination.

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 foster parent shall make swimming and wading pools inaccessible to foster children except when supervised by an adult who can swim.

6013 MAINTAINING FOSTER CHILDREN'S RECORDS

6013.1 A foster 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;

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- (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 and handicapping conditions;
- (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 foster parent is responsible;
- (i) School reports; and
- (j) A record of the foster child’s memberships, activities, and participation in extracurricular activities.

6014 PLANNING WITH THE AGENCY

- 6014.1 A foster 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 foster parent shall work with agency staff in the development and implementation of the case plan. The foster parent shall sign each case plan or amendment to the case plan affecting the foster parent.
- 6014.3 A foster parent may participate in administrative and judicial reviews for each foster child. The agency shall give the foster parent ten (10) business days notice of all judicial hearings and administrative reviews concerning each foster child in the foster parent's care.
- 6014.4 A foster 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 foster parent shall make available any information or documents necessary for the completion of the renewal process.

6015 WORKING WITH THE FOSTER CHILD’S FAMILY

- 6015.1 A foster parent shall work with the foster child’s family members as set forth in the foster child’s case plan.
- 6015.2 A foster 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 foster parent shall allow each foster child and the foster child's family members and friends to communicate by mail and by telephone in accordance with the foster child’s case plan.
- 6015.4 A foster parent shall maintain the confidentiality of information concerning the foster child’s family in accordance with the requirements of § 6023.

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 A foster child may receive an allowance appropriate to the child’s age and level of functioning.

6017 CLOTHING AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS

6017.1 A foster parent shall provide each foster child with his or her own clean, well-fitting, attractive, and seasonal clothing appropriate to the foster child's age, gender, 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 foster parent shall permit the foster child to choose her or his own clothing whenever possible.

6017.3 A foster 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 foster parent shall send all personal clothing and belongings with each foster child when the foster child leaves the foster home. A foster 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 foster parent shall ensure that the foster child leaves the foster home with sufficient containers to hold all of the foster child's clothes and belongings.

6017.6 A foster parent shall maintain an annual updated clothing inventory for each foster child in her or his care.

6018 DISCIPLINE AND CONTROL

6018.1 A foster 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 handicapping condition, if any, of the foster child.

6018.3 A foster parent shall establish well-defined rules that set the expectations for and the limits of behavior.

6018.4 No foster parent shall subject a child to physical, emotional, or verbal abuse, derogatory remarks about the child or family members, or threats of removal from

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the foster home.

6018.5 A foster 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 foster parent shall not punish a child for bed-wetting or any action regarding toilet training.

6018.7 A foster parent shall take steps to ensure that any other person providing care to a foster child adheres to the requirements of this section.

6019 HEALTH CARE

6019.1 A foster parent and the agency shall cooperate with the DC KIDS program 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 and a full medical and dental examination within two (2) weeks, arranged by the child's social worker.

6019.3 A foster parent and the agency shall cooperate in planning to meet the health care needs of a foster child as identified through the DC KIDS program.

6019.4 A foster parent may not consent to health care for a foster child. The foster parent shall notify the agency immediately of any situation requiring consent to health care.

6019.5 A foster parent shall make and keep all health care appointments for the foster child, as identified through the DC KIDS program.

6019.6 A foster parent shall be responsible for transporting each foster child to all health care appointments. Assistance from the agency may be provided under special

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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 foster parent shall supervise and administer the exact amount of the medication.

6019.8 A foster 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 foster parent shall provide a nutritionally balanced diet adequate for the foster child's growth and development.

6020 RELIGION AND ETHNIC HERITAGE

6020.1 A foster 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 foster 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 foster parent shall provide or arrange transportation, consistent with § 6002.1(h), to religious services or ethnic events for a foster child.

6021 EDUCATION

6021.1 The agency 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. The foster parent shall enroll the foster child in school within one (1) school day of receipt of the documentation. The agency shall assist in this process as needed.

6021.2 A foster 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.

6021.3 A foster 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.

6021.4 A foster parent shall participate in each foster child's school activities related to the child's performance.

6021.5 Whenever possible, a foster parent shall become the parent surrogate for any

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foster child in her or his care who is deemed eligible for special education services.

6022 RECREATION AND COMMUNITY

6022.1 A foster parent shall provide opportunities for recreational activities that are appropriate to the age and abilities of the foster child.

6022.2 All organized activities shall be supervised by the foster parent, another adult caregiver designated by the foster parent, or the designated group leader.

6022.3 A foster parent shall encourage the foster child to take part in community services and activities both with the foster parent family and on the foster child's own.

6023 CONFIDENTIALITY

6023.1 A foster parent shall maintain the confidentiality of all information about a foster child and the foster child's family. A foster 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.

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

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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 foster 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 foster 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.

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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 monitoring and placement 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 § 6030.
- 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

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(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 § 6030. CFSA shall send a copy of its decision to the foster 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 foster 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

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welfare, or would promote the achievement of the child's case plan or permanency.

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 foster 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 6030.
- 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.

6026 FOSTER PARENT TRAINING

- 6026.1 An applicant shall participate in an orientation program offered by the agency.
- 6026.2 In addition to the orientation program required by § 6026.1, an applicant shall participate in thirty (30) hours of pre-service training 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 foster 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

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with them;

- (c) Developmental needs of children in foster care;
- (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 foster 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; and
- (m) The procedures and practices of the Family Division of the District of Columbia Superior Court related to children in foster care.

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 foster parent shall participate in fifteen (15) hours of in-service training annually to increase her or his skills and parenting abilities. 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 foster parent shall obtain and maintain documentation of any training in which the foster parent participates in accordance with § 6026.5 and submit such documentation during the re-evaluation in accordance with § 6029.3.

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6026.7 To meet the fifteen (15) hour requirement, in-service training shall be approved in advance by the agency.

6027 LICENSING PROCESS

6027.1 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 § 6026.2;
- (c) The opportunity for an applicant to assess his or her potential for foster 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 orientation 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 § 6027.3;
- (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.

6027.2 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 foster parenting, parenting one's own child, and adoption of a child;

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- (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;

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- (p) CFSA’s policy on discipline and control as set forth in § 6018, including alternatives to physical discipline; and
- (q) The requirement that a foster parent attend thirty (30) hours of pre-service training in accordance with § 6026.2 and at least fifteen (15) hours per year of subsequent in-service training in accordance with § 6026.5.

6027.3 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 foster parent, one of which may be unannounced, with at least one of the visits including:
 - (1) The entire household;
 - (2) A discussion of training; and
 - (3) A tour of the house;
- (c) Obtaining and reviewing at least three (3) written personal references selected from relatives, neighbors, and employers or co-workers, if applicable;
- (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 control 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 foster parent for the safety of all children in her or his care;
- (f) Obtaining verification of income;
- (g) Obtaining verification of marital 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;

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(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; and

(l) Obtaining verification of current vaccinations for any pets in the home, as applicable.

6027.4 If CFSA is not the agency:

(a) The agency shall notify the applicant in writing, and within one hundred twenty (120) days of the receipt of a signed foster parent application, of its decision whether to recommend that the applicant be approved as a foster 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.

6027.5 If CFSA is the agency, it shall notify the applicant in writing and within one hundred twenty (120) days of the receipt of a signed foster parent application, of its decision to issue or deny the application.

6027.6 CFSA shall issue a license within three (3) business days of its decision to issue the license.

6027.7 A license is valid for one (1) year from the date of the license.

6028 DENIAL OF LICENSE OR RENEWAL

6028.1 CFSA shall deny an application for a license or a renewal if it determines that the applicant or foster parent cannot provide for the health, safety, or welfare of foster children. Factors to be considered in determining whether an applicant or foster parent can provide for the health, safety, or welfare of foster children include, but are not limited to:

(a) The applicant, foster parent, household member, prospective foster home or foster home violates or fails to comply with any provision of this chapter of the DCMR;

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- (b) CFSA's evaluation of the application reveals that the applicant or foster parent knowingly reported false information;
- (c) The applicant or foster 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 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, foster parent, or a household member.

6028.2 CFSA may deny an application for a license or a renewal for other good cause.

6029 ANNUAL RE-EVALUATION AND LICENSE RENEWAL

6029.1 An agency shall re-evaluate annually the ability of each foster parent and foster home to meet the requirements of this chapter of the DCMR.

6029.2 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 foster parent;
- (c) Collection and review of all documentation required pursuant to § 6029.3;
- (d) Interviews with all social workers assigned to children placed in the foster home during the year. The interviews shall include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) The appropriateness of the individual as a foster 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 foster parent to comply with CFSA and agency directives;
 - (5) The foster parent's compliance with this chapter of the DCMR;

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- (6) The willingness and ability of the foster 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 § 6024;
- (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 foster parent.

6029.3 The documentation that shall be reviewed during the re-evaluation shall include:

- (a) Documentation of completed in-service training in accordance with § 6026.5;
- (b) Criminal records checks for any individual eighteen (18) years of age or older who became a resident of the foster home since the license was last issued or renewed;
- (c) Child protection register checks for any individuals eighteen (18) years of age or older who became a resident of the foster home since the license was last issued or renewed;
- (d) Clean hands certification signed by the foster parent within ninety (90) days preceding the expiration date of the current license;
- (e) Documentation from a physician that the foster parent and any other household member eighteen (18) years of age or older has had a complete medical examination within twenty-four (24) months of the expiration of the current license (including a tuberculosis screening) and have no medical conditions that would contraindicate the foster parent's appropriateness to serve as a foster parent;
- (f) Documentation from a physician, for every household member under eighteen (18) years of age who is not a foster child, that the household member has had

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a complete medical examination within twenty-four (24) months of the expiration of the current license (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) Current vaccination records for every pet in the foster home.

6029.4 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.

6029.5 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.

6029.6 CFSA shall issue a renewal within three (3) business days of its decision to renew the license.

6030 SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE

6030.1 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.

6030.2 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.

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- 6030.3 CFSA may extend the suspension period under § 6030.2 for no more than an additional thirty (30) days if the extension is necessary to remedy the condition for which the license was suspended.
- 6030.4 In lieu of an immediate suspension pursuant to § 6030.2, CFSA may notify a foster 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 § 6030.2, but may not extend the suspension period in accordance with § 6030.3.
- 6030.5 Except for a suspension under § 6030.1, 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.
- 6030.6 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.
- 6030.7 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.
- 6030.8 In the event of a planned revocation or suspension, at least ten (10) business days before the planned date, CFSA shall send the foster 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 foster parent’s right to appeal.
- 6030.9 Within five (5) business days after the suspension or revocation of a license, CFSA shall send the foster parent a notice that includes:

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

6030.10 Unless CFSA has removed a foster child from the foster home pursuant to §§ 6024 or 6030.1 and 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 foster parent a notice of intended action pursuant to § 6030.8 and the foster parent filed an appeal within ten (10) days of the notice.

6030.11 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 foster parent; or
- (b) The Director or designate has given written approval.

6031 APPEAL PROCEDURE

6031.1 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.

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 who is eighteen (18) years of age or older.

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

File rules – effective 7/27/01

“Applicant” -- The person(s) applying to be licensed as a foster parent under this chapter of the DCMR.

“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 self-certification by an applicant that he or she does not owe certain outstanding debt to the District of Columbia government as set forth in D.C. Code § 47-2862.

“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.

“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 foster parent is licensed to provide care to a foster child under this chapter of the DCMR.

File rules – effective 7/27/01

“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.

“Health care” – Includes medical, 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.

“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 U.S.C. §§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.

“Revocation” – The taking back of a license by CFSA because of a failure to comply with the requirements of this chapter of the DCMR.