



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Chad Poppell
Secretary

DATE: June 29, 2020

TO: Regional Managing Directors
Sheriff Offices Conducting Child Protective Investigations

THROUGH: Patricia Babcock, Deputy Secretary *Patricia Babcock*

FROM: Patricia Medlock, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare *pm*
Robert Anderson, Assistant Secretary for Operations *Robert H. Anderson*

SUBJECT: Child Protective Investigation Response for Children in a Florida Association of Christian Child Caring Agencies (FACCCA) Home or Facility

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to provide policy guidance regarding allegations involving children in the care of an entity registered by The Florida Association of Christian Child Caring Agencies (FACCCA).

BACKGROUND: Pursuant to s. 409.176, Florida Statutes (F.S.), the licensing requirements set forth in s.409.175, F.S., do not apply to a home or facility classified as a "Type II" facility. Type II facilities are those who are: 1) a religious organization or family foster home that does not directly receive state or federal funds; 2) certified by a Florida statewide child care organization or "qualified association" who publish and comply with licensing standards substantially similar to department licensed child caring agencies and foster homes; and 3) have been issued a certificate of registration by the qualified association. The department recognizes FACCCA as the "qualified association" that complies with licensing standards for the purpose of licensing homes or facilities who meet the requirements outlined above.

Once it is determined an investigation involves an FACCCA home or facility, the Child Protective Investigator (CPI) shall complete the following:

- 1) Notify the department licensing region team and FACCCA Executive Director, Matt Higgins, at 850-542-1776 or email at director@faccca.com upon determination that it is an FACCCA facility or home.
- 2) Conduct investigations in accordance with Florida Statutes, Florida Administrative Code, and department policy.
- 3) Review the placement agreement signed by the parent/legal guardian that placed the child in the care of FACCCA to determine if the agreement has expired.
- 4) If it is determined that the agreement has expired, then this may constitute abandonment pursuant to Chapter 39, F.S.

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5) If abandonment by the parent/legal guardian who placed the child in the care of FACCCA is alleged and not the subject of the current report, an in-home report shall be initiated. If abandonment by the parent/legal guardian is verified, then the following placement considerations shall apply:

a. CPI staff may consider maintaining placement in the FACCCA home after ensuring that all requirements are met for placement in non-relative care.

b. CPI staff may explore other non-relative placement options with FACCCA as long as there are no additional allegations or concerns that prevent placement with a FACCCA provider.

6) Once the investigation is finalized, the outcome of the investigation and date of closure shall be provided to the FACCCA Executive Director.

ACTION REQUESTED: Please distribute this guidance to all child protective investigation units, sheriff offices conducting child protective investigations, regional licensing staff, and any other applicable staff as needed.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions, please contact Tanisha Lee, Statewide Child-Placing and Child-Caring Licensing Specialist, Office of Child Welfare, at Tanisha.lee@myflfamilies.com or call (850) 717-4659; or Brooke Bass, CPI Practice and Policy Manager, Office of Child Welfare, at Brooke.bass@myflfamilies.com or call (850) 717-4643.

cc: Regional Family and Community Services Directors
Stefanie Camfield, Assistant General Counsel
Grainne O'Sullivan, Director of Child Welfare Legal Services
Matt Higgins, FACCCA Executive Director
Center for Child Welfare