

The Big Switch to 65C~45

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Why the change?

In July 2018, changes were made to Florida's foster care licensing policy with the addition of new language in Florida Statutes;

In April 2019, DCF Operating Procedures were published to align the state's licensing policies with the new statute changes;

While updates were done to operating procedures, these changes were not in complete alignment with Florida Administrative Code 65C-13;

65C-13 will be repealed in its entirety and replaced with 65C-45.

Background screenings for all levels of licensure

The background screening section for all levels of licensure was updated to clarify requirements for initial licensure, relicensure, and 3-year licensure;

Background screening requirements were separated based on the age of the household member;

Out-of-state civil records checks are no longer required for licensure;

Background screenings for relicensure must be valid within 60 days of re-licensure or rescreening's for three-year licensure.

Background screenings for all levels of licensure, continued...



- Additional parameters were added related to the review of abuse and neglect records;
 - When an applicant or household member was named caregiver responsible in a report verified for sexual abuse, this shall be an automatic disqualifier;
 - When an applicant or household member has been named in 3 or more reports within a 5 year period, or named in a not substantiated report for sexual abuse, the family's history must be reviewed by the Department's Regional Family Safety Office.
- Specifically for relicensure and three-year licensure review, background screenings required annually must be valid within 60 days of the license expiration date.

Level I Licensure

Policy has been updated to reflect Florida's new level I licensure;

Level I licensure allows the waiving of non-safety licensing requirements;

Waiving of items requires a justification however; once waived, no further action is required;

All request for waiver of requirements must be documented on the licensing/relicensing checklist and must be approved by the Regional Licensing staff.

Level I Licensure, continued...

- Updates were made to the reference requirements for level I foster parents;
- Families seeking licensure under level I, are required to have a minimum of two references that can provide feedback on the family's ability to meet the needs of the child;
 - References may include: personal references, employee reference, school reference from school/pre-school.
- If a prospective level I foster parent was denied for emergency/planned placement due to a disqualifying background screening, level I licensing is not required.

Changes During the Licensure Year

Language has been added for families that allows a family to make a formal request to be placed on hold at their request until a written request has been made to resume accepting placement;

When a licensed out-of-home caregiver marries, moves in with, or reconciles with an unlicensed spouse or partner, the unlicensed party must complete preservice training within 3 months;

If preservice training is not readily available for the family, training for the unlicensed spouse or partner must be completed within 6 months.

Disputes and Conflicts

When there is a conflict or dispute between an out-of-home caregiver(s) and the department, the CBC or their subcontracted providers, the caregiver may make a formal request in writing for a meeting to resolve the concerns;



The meeting must include the, case manager, supervisor, and at least one representative from the CBC;



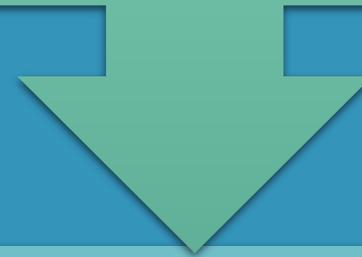
When the dispute involves a department employee, the meeting must include the department employee and a supervisory representative;



The outcome of the meeting must be documented in FSFN.

Supports for licensed caregivers

Language was included to provide guidance on requirement related to the supports of licensed out-of-home caregivers;



Supports for foster parents include but are not limited to:

Access to
foster parent
support
groups

Foster parent
mentoring

Service
resources and
referrals for
caregivers

Quarterly
visits or
contract

Over-Capacity for licensed foster homes

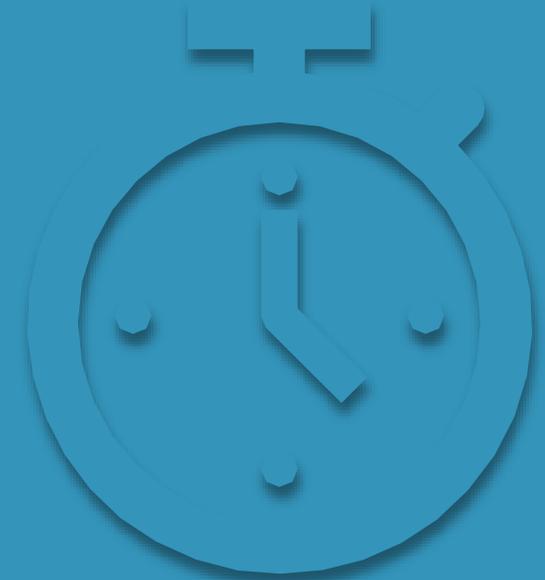
The over-capacity language currently applies to all levels of licensure;

Updates were made to clarify who is authorized to approve capacity waivers for licensed foster homes;

Capacity waivers are required to be approved by the Regional Managing Director or their designee, which may include the CBC executive leadership.

Extended License

- The extended license function replaces the provisional license which was removed from Florida Statutes in 2019;
- Extended licenses may be issued per s. once during the licensure period for a time period that does not exceed 30 days;
- An extended license must not be issued when there is failure to comply with background screening requirements.



Parent Preparation Training



Language included to allow for the use of online training curriculums that have been approved;



Psychotropic medication training is specific to level II-V foster licensure and not required for level I licensure unless required per 65C-35;



Requires new or modified training curriculums to be approved by the Office of Child Welfare;



Additionally, the Office of Child Welfare must review all training curriculums every 7 years.

QUESTIONS???

