

Title 214 – DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Chapter 40 – Licensing

Subchapter 00 – N/A

PART 3 – Foster Care and Adoption Regulations for Licensure

3.1 Purpose

- A. These Regulations contain the licensing requirements for foster care and adoptive homes licensed by the Department of Children, Youth and Families. These licensing requirements are designed to ensure children who are in foster care and pre-adoptive homes are safe, healthy, and cared for in a nurturing environment.

3.2 Authority

- A. These Regulations are promulgated pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-72, R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 42-72.1-5, 42-72.1, 42-72.10-1, 14-1-27, 14-1-34, and 15-7-11.

3.3 Application

- A. The terms and provisions of these Regulations shall be liberally construed to permit the Department to effectuate the purposes of state law, goals, and policies.

3.4 Severability

- A. If any provision of these Regulations or application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of the Regulations are not affected.

3.5 Definitions

- A. Terms related to resource family are as defined below:
 - 1. "Resource Family" means adult(s) head of household, also referred to as resource parent, foster parent, pre-adoptive parent or adoptive parent, who is granted a license by the Department to provide foster care or to adopt.
 - 2. "Applicant" means a person applying for a Foster Care and Adoption License.

3. "Household" means adult(s) and children who reside with the applicant or resource family.
4. "Kinship foster parent" means the adult head of household, also referred to as resource parent who is granted a license by the Department to provide foster care for a related child in care or a child with whom the adult has a kinship bond. The kinship foster parent may be a relative or a member of the child's family support system, such as a godparent, close family friend or member of the child's community. There may be one or two kinship foster parents in the household.
5. "Non-Kinship foster parent" means a licensed foster and/or pre-adoptive care provider, also referred to as a resource parent, not previously known or related to the child in care.
6. "Adoptive parent" means the head of the household, also referred to as resource parent, who is licensed to receive children into the home for the purpose of adoption. A pre-adoptive parent is also referred to as an adoptive parent. There may be one or two adoptive parents in the household.

B. Terms related to licensing and the Department are as follows:

1. "Child in care" means child or youth, also referred to as a foster or pre-adoptive child, under the care and supervision of the Department, residing in a foster or pre-adoptive home.
2. "Child" means any person under the age of 18, living in the resource family home and/or a youth over the age of 18 and in the Department's custody.
3. "Department" means the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, also referred to as DCYF, responsible for child welfare, children's behavioral health and juvenile correctional operations in Rhode Island.
4. "Family Service Unit (FSU) social caseworker" means DCYF worker, also referred to as a primary service worker, who provides ongoing social services and case management to children and families who have become involved with the Department due to abuse, neglect, wayward or dependency, as well as children who are in need of behavioral and/or mental health services.
5. "Foster care and adoption license" means required legal authorization granted by the Department that permits an individual to provide foster and/or adoptive care.
6. "Licensing unit" means the division within the Department responsible for issuing Foster and Adoption Licenses.

7. "Reasonable and prudent parenting standard" means the standard characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety, and best interests of a child while at the same time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of the child, that the resource parent uses when determining whether to allow a child in care to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities.
8. "Service plan" means a written document that is developed jointly with the parent or guardian of the child in DCYF care and includes a discussion of how the case plan is designed to achieve a safe placement for the child in the least restrictive, most family like setting available.
9. "Waiver" means an administrative decision that allows case by-case exemptions from compliance with a non-safety related standard in kinship foster homes.

3.6 Licensing Provisions

A. Interest and Application

1. Any person or couple interested in becoming a foster or adoptive parent must submit a signed application.

B. Initial Licensure

1. Each applicant and all household members must submit to comprehensive background checks that include:
 - a. Criminal records check for all household members age 18 and older in accordance with the Department's Criminal Background Checks policy;
 - b. Child abuse and neglect clearances for all household members to include out-of-state Adam Walsh clearances, if applicable, per the Department's Child Protective Services Clearance policy and
 - c. Any additional background checks as required by state or federal law.
2. The applicant(s) must submit documentation that includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Signed authorizations for release of information from health providers, private foster care agencies, or other sources;
 - b. Signed Foster Home Agreement, including a confirmation of receipt and review of the Foster Parent Bill of Rights;
 - c. Applicable licenses, certifications, and registrations held by the applicant(s) or household members (e.g., pets, firearms, medical marijuana, driver's license);

- d. A health history for each applicant and other household members as applicable:
 - i. Applicants must submit documentation from the prior 12 months regarding his or her physical health, mental health and/or substance abuse history. Documentation may include but is not limited to, a signed physician's reference, medical records, or a copy of a physical exam.
 - ii. The Department may request a statement from a qualified medical professional familiar with the applicant or household member's physical or mental health history, including substance use, to ensure that no member of the household has an illness or condition that presents a health or safety risk to a child in the home, or hinder the applicant's ability to provide appropriate care.
 - e. Proof of financial stability as described in Section 3.7. D., Income and Fiscal Management;
 - f. Contact information for personal references;
 - g. Other documentation may be required to provide additional documentation to supplement the licensing application.
3. Each applicant and any household members must participate in a home study.
- a. The home study consists of a summary of any Department contact with the applicant(s)'s family and a description of the home, community, family and social relationships and includes the following information:
 - i. A summary of the applicant's relationships with his or her biological and/or adopted children, past and present spouses or partners, and other family members;
 - ii. An assessment of the applicant's parenting ability and motivation for fostering or adopting a child.
4. Applicants must permit a Department representative to complete a home safety inspection to assess the safety of the physical home and immediate grounds.
5. Each applicant must complete a course of pre-service training as required by the Department.

C. Variance

- 1. The Department may grant a variance to a standard in these regulations if the foster or pre-adoptive home can meet the standard for licensure in a

manner other than that specified in the regulations. A variance is granted on a case-by-case basis and only when the purpose of the licensing standard is achieved, and the safety of the child is maintained.

D. Waiver

1. The Department may grant a waiver for a kinship foster home to allow on a case by-case basis an exemption from compliance with a non-safety related standard in these regulations.
2. The conditions and term of the waiver may not change without written approval from the licensing administrator or designee.
3. At the end of a time-limited waiver, the licensee must demonstrate compliance with all of these regulations.

E. Determination

1. If the initial or renewal licensure process is completed successfully, and the applicant(s) have demonstrated compliance with the regulations and suitability as caregivers, the Department will determine the license capacity and issue a license.
 - a. A license applies only to the place of residence occupied by the applicant(s) and household members at the time of issuance.
 - b. A license does not entitle the licensee to a guaranteed placement of a foster child.
2. The Department may deny the license for the following reasons:
 - a. The comprehensive background check of an applicant or household member revealed disqualifying information;
 - b. The results of the comprehensive background check of an applicant or household member showed information that is not automatically disqualifying but impacts the fitness and suitability of the applicant to provide care for a child.
 - c. The results of the licensure process, including but not limited to, documentation review, home study, and safety inspection, do not demonstrate that the applicant(s) is a suitable caretaker, or that the circumstance of an applicant, household member, or home presents a health or safety risk to any child and may interfere with the applicant's ability to provide satisfactory care.
 - d. The biological parent or legal guardian of the child in care resides with the applicant(s).
 - e. Applicant(s) fails to cooperate with the Department in its licensing process, including, but not limited to:

- i. Providing falsified or misleading statements and/or documentation to the Department; and/or
 - ii. Making efforts to deceive the Department.
- f. Applicant(s) fails to comply with any of these regulations.
- 3. At the end of a time limited waiver, the licensee must demonstrate compliance with all these regulations.

F. Changes to the License

- 1. If a licensee moves, the licensee must notify the Department no less than four weeks in advance of the move.
- 2. If the permanent household composition changes, the licensee must notify the Department immediately and comply with any additional background checks, home visits, or safety inspections as applicable.

G. Monitoring

- 1. The license entitles the Director of the Department or designee the right to:
 - a. Enter the licensed home for planned or unplanned visits,
 - b. Inspect the home and speak with licensees, household members, and children in care to determine compliance with these regulations; and
 - c. Investigate complaints of regulatory violations.

H. Enforcement

- 1. If at any time the licensee violates the terms of the license or these regulations, the Department may take the following actions:
 - a. A plan of corrective action may be required;
 - b. The licensed capacity may be reduced;
 - c. Additional in-service training may be required;
 - d. Foster child(ren) may be removed from the care of the licensee;
 - e. Formal licensing action, such as revocation, may be taken.
- 2. A license may be revoked for the following reasons:
 - a. Disqualifying information is discovered on any part of a comprehensive background check of an applicant or household member;

- b. Information was found on a comprehensive background check of an applicant or household member that is not automatically disqualifying but impacts upon the fitness and suitability of the applicant to provide care for a child.
 - c. The licensee or household member poses or threatens safety risk to the child in care.
 - d. The licensee does not protect any child in the home from physical or emotional harm or fails to provide adequate supervision appropriate to the child's needs and level of development.
 - e. The Department discovers that the biological parent or legal guardian of the child in care resides with the resource family.
 - f. The Department determines that the resource parent failed to cooperate with the Department in its licensing process, including, but not limited to:
 - i. Provided falsified or misleading statements and/or documentation to the Department; and/or
 - ii. Made efforts to deceive the Department.
 - g. The resource parent fails to comply with any of these regulations or with any federal or Rhode Island General Laws relating to the care of children.
3. Procedure for review relating to possible licensing actions:
- a. If there is reasonable cause to believe that there is an imminent danger to the physical and/or emotional well-being of the child in care, the child may be removed from the home.
 - b. If licensing action, such as revocation, is considered:
 - i. The licensing administrator sends written notice informing the licensee that the Department is considering a licensing action and provides notice of the facts that may warrant this action;
 - ii. The written notice indicates a willingness to meet with the licensee and provides a date and time for the meeting; and
 - iii. At the meeting, the licensee is given an opportunity to show cause why the action should not be taken.
 - iv. If, after the meeting, the facts continue to appear to warrant licensing action, written notification of that licensing action, with notice of appeal rights, is sent to the licensee.

I. Dual Licensure

1. The resource family may not hold dual licenses as a Supportive Living Arrangement (SLA) provider through the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals and as a foster/pre-adoptive provider through the Department.
 - a. An exception may be made when a foster child ages out of care into an SLA, remains with the same Resource Family, and there are other foster children in the home.
2. A family home childcare provider is permitted to apply for a Foster and Adoptive License if the following criteria are met:
 - a. The applicant holds a family child care home license and does not have any violations of any licensing regulations for the past two years.
 - b. The applicant must comply with the Department's Family ChildCare Home and Foster Care and Adoption Regulations for Licensure.

J. License Renewal

1. A Foster Care and Adoption License is valid for two years. To maintain licensure, the licensee must participate in the licensing renewal process which begins six months in advance of the expiration date of the license.
2. To renew the license, the licensee, and household members as applicable, must:
 - a. Submits to updated comprehensive background checks;
 - b. Provides updated documentation related to Section 3.6.B.2.a.-f., as applicable.
 - c. Permits the Department to complete a new safety inspection of the residence; and
 - d. Demonstrates evidence of ongoing in-service training, as required by the Department.
3. When requesting a license renewal, the licensee must demonstrate continued compliance with these licensing regulations.

K. Appeals and Hearings

1. Any applicant for licensure or licensee may appeal any action or decision of a Departmental staff person, supervisor or administrator that is detrimental to the person's status as an applicant or license holder through the Executive Office of Health and Human Services administrative appeals process.

3.7 General Requirements of the Resource Parent and Residence

A. Family Composition

1. One or two adults as head of household may receive a Foster and Adoption License.
2. The applicant must demonstrate the ability to meet the needs of all children living in the home.
3. The total number of minor children in the household does not exceed five, including biological, adopted, foster and pre-adoptive children unless the resource parent participates in a standardized assessment completed by the Department or designee to determine the resource parent's ability to care for more than five children. The licensing administrator makes a recommendation based on the outcome of the standardized assessment to the Director or his or her designee to authorize or deny an increase to the total number of children in the home.
 - a. The standardized assessment evaluates the resource parent(s)'s capacity while considering factors that include, but are not limited to the:
 - i. Physical, emotional, behavioral, educational, and medical needs of all children in the home;
 - ii. Household composition;
 - iii. Natural supports available to the resource family;
 - iv. Any prior Department involvement, to include any previous placement history with the resource family;
 - v. Financial stability; and
 - vi. Available space in the home.
 - b. Resource families that have more than five minor children in the home at the time of the effective date of these regulations are required to comply with the requirements of Section 3.7.3. upon license renewal.
4. The resource parent must not care for more than two children less than two years of age or four children less than six years of age at any time, to include all children in the home.

B. Age

1. The resource parent is at least 21 years of age.

C. Health

1. The resource parent and any household member must not have a physical, behavioral or mental health condition that the Department determines may adversely affect the child in care or the child's care.

D. Income and Fiscal Management

1. The resource parent must have income or resources to make timely payments for housing, food, utility costs, clothing, and other household expenses before the addition of a child or children in foster care.
2. The resource parent uses the foster maintenance payment, and any other funding from the Department related to the child in care (e.g., birthday, clothing, holiday allowance payments) solely to meet the individual needs of the child in care.

E. Communication

1. Applicants must be able to communicate with the child, the Department health care providers, and other service providers.
2. At least one applicant in the home must have functional literacy, such as having the ability to read medication labels and must be able to read and write at the level necessary to participate effectively in the community in which they live.

F. General Safety Requirements

1. The resource parent is responsible for ensuring that all parts of the home, grounds, and any structures on the property are maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition and kept in a reasonable state of repair, in a way that ensures the health and safety of all individuals.
2. A child must be protected through the use of physical barriers or adult supervision from potentially hazardous outdoor areas, such as bodies of water, open pits or wells, cliffs or caves, high speed or heavily traveled roads and electrical equipment and machinery.
3. Swimming pools (above ground, inground, or wading), hot tubs, and spas must meet the following to ensure they are safe and hazard free (and additionally must meet all state, tribal and/or local safety requirements):
 - a. Swimming pools must have a barrier on all sides.
 - b. Swimming pools must have their methods of access through the barrier equipped with a safety device, such as a bolt lock.
 - c. Swimming pools must be equipped with a life-saving device, such as a ring buoy.
 - d. If the swimming pool cannot be emptied after each use, the pool must have a working pump and filtering system.

- e. Hot tubs and spas must have safety covers that are locked when not in use.
 - 4. The residence must be maintained with:
 - a. Utilities in operating condition including, but not limited to:
 - i. Heat and hot water;
 - ii. Lighting;
 - iii. Ventilation; and
 - iv. Plumbing to ensure a continuous supply of safe drinking water.
 - b. At least one bathroom with one toilet, sink, and shower or tub, all in operating condition.
 - c. A properly operating kitchen with a sink, refrigerator, stovetop, and oven.
 - 5. The resource parent must ensure that the child in care cannot access, as appropriate for the child's age and development, medications, poisonous materials, cleaning supplies, other hazardous materials, and alcoholic beverages.
 - 6. A child in care must not be exposed to second-hand smoke in the resource parent's home or vehicle by any household member, or visitor of that family.
 - 7. All locking doors within the residence must be able to be unlocked from both sides.
 - 8. The residence must be free of rodents and insect infestation.
 - 9. Garbage must be removed from the house regularly and stored outside in covered containers or closed bags.
- G. Fire and Safety Inspections
- 1. The resource parent must permit Department staff access to all areas of the home and property for a visual inspection, regardless if the area is accessible to children.
 - 2. Single and two-family dwellings must be equipped with a battery pack or hard-wired smoke and carbon monoxide detector system.
 - 3. Three family apartment homes must be equipped with smoke and carbon monoxide detectors that either is hardwired or wireless units.

4. Apartment homes with four or more families must be equipped with a hard-wired fire and carbon monoxide alarm system.
5. The entire residence, including the cellar/basement, is maintained in an uncluttered way to limit fire hazards and ensure safe passage out of the home in the case of an emergency.
6. The resource parent's residence must comply with lead certification requirements for private residences consistent with RI General Law.

H. Emergency and Disaster Procedures

1. The resource family must have an approved written disaster and emergency response plan for the household in the event of an emergency. The plan must be:
 - a. Reviewed with the resource parent(s), household members, and children in care; and
 - b. Posted in the home.
2. The resource parent must maintain basic first aid supplies that are readily accessible.
3. After notifying emergency personnel, as applicable, the resource parent contacts the Department's Licensing Unit and the child's primary service worker as soon as possible after an emergency or disaster.
 - a. If the emergency or disaster occurs outside of normal business hours, or if the resource parent is unable to reach staff during normal business hours, the resource parent contacts the RI Department of Children, Youth and Families' Child Protective Services (CPS) hotline (1-800-RI-CHILD/1-800-742-4453).

E. Firearm and Weapon Safety

1. The Department must be informed if a resident of the household owns or possesses any firearm. Possession or ownership of firearms must conform to state and local laws.
2. Any firearm, air rifle, hunting slingshot, other projectile weapons, or self-defense weapons (e.g., pepper spray or taser) must be stored in a locked area inaccessible to a child.
3. Any ammunition, arrows or projectiles for weapons must be stored separately from the weapon or firearm in a locked space.

F. Telephones and Emergency Numbers

1. There must be a working telephone in the resource family's home that is readily available for use in case of an emergency.

2. A list of emergency phone numbers is posted in a conspicuous place in the home.

G. Pet Safety

1. Dogs, cats and other pets or domestic animals maintained on the premises must be kept in a safe and sanitary manner.
2. Pets maintained on the premises must have up-to-date rabies vaccinations as appropriate.
3. A child must, according to his or her age and developmental level, be protected from animals that are potentially dangerous to the child's health.

H. Sleeping Arrangements

1. All bedrooms for children must have at least one window and one closing door and may be used only as bedrooms.
2. Living rooms, dining rooms, and halls must not be used as bedrooms for a child in care or any other member of the household.
3. All rooms used as bedrooms must meet all state and local codes.
4. Each child must have his or her own bed (of a type and size appropriate to the child's stage of development).
5. Each child's bed must have linens (including pillow, blankets, and sheets).
6. No child under the age of six may sleep on the top bunk.
7. No child under the age of three may sleep on a waterbed or air mattress at any time.
8. Each infant, up to one year of age, must sleep in a safe environment in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Recommendations for a Safe Infant Sleeping Environment.
9. Resource parents may not co-sleep or bedshare with any infant.
10. Except for a child under the age of one-year, sufficient sleeping space must be available so that no child in the household shares the bedroom with an adult.
11. Except for a child under the age of one year, space is provided within the bedroom for the child's possessions and a reasonable degree of privacy.
12. A child three years of age or older must not share a bedroom with any child of the opposite sex except:
 - a. When it is necessary to facilitate the placement of sibling groups; or

- b. To meet the needs of transgender or gender non-conforming youth.
- 13. No more than four children are permitted to sleep in one bedroom.
- I. Child Abuse and Neglect
 - 1. Any suspected case of child abuse and/or neglect must be reported to the RI Department of Children, Youth and Families' Child Protective Services (CPS) hotline (1-800-RI-CHILD/1-800-742-4453) within 24 hours in accordance with state law and Department policy.

3.8 Provision of Services

A. Resource Parent Personal Characteristics and Abilities

- 1. The resource parent demonstrates the competence, interpersonal qualities and life experiences that enable him or her to provide quality care.
- 2. The resource parent meets the physical, emotional, social, developmental, treatment, educational, cultural and supports the permanency needs of the child in care.

B. Confidentiality

- 1. Information about a child in care and his or her family must be held in confidence by the resource parent and all household members.
- 2. The resource parent must not share photographs, sketches, videos, identifying information or names of children in care with anyone other than immediate family members or used in any material that will be available to the public, including on the resource parent's social media networks, without the permission of the Department.
- 3. The resource parent must obtain permission through the Department before permitting any media outlet to interview, photograph, or publish information about a child in care for television, newspaper, newsletter, any internet publication, or any other source.

C. Supervision

- 1. Each child must always be supervised in a manner appropriate to the child's needs and level of development.
- 2. When the resource parent is absent from the home for any reason, the resource parent applies the reasonable and prudent parenting standard to determine the appropriate supervision needs of the child.
- 3. Overnight sitters must be at least 18 years old.

4. If the absence of the resource parent is on a regular basis, the childcare arrangements must be approved by the Department.

D. Behavior Management

1. The resource parent uses discipline solely to teach a child appropriate behavior in a manner consistent with the child's age and developmental level.
2. Discipline must be:
 - a. Individualized and consistent for each child;
 - b. Appropriate to the child's level of understanding; and
 - c. Directed toward teaching the child acceptable behavior and self-control.
3. Corporal punishment is strictly prohibited. Corporal punishment includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Hitting, spanking, shaking, slapping, twisting, pulling, squeezing, or biting a child;
 - b. Demanding excessive physical exercise, excessive rest, or strenuous or bizarre postures of a child;
 - c. Compelling a child to eat or have in his/her mouth soap, food, spices, or foreign substances;
 - d. Exposing a child to extremes of temperature;
 - e. Isolating a child in a bathroom, hallway, closet, darkened area, or similar area;
 - f. Binding, tying, or taping to restrict movement; and
 - g. Requiring silence or inactivity for inappropriately long periods.
4. Other practices that are strictly prohibited include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Using or withholding food as a punishment or reward;
 - b. Toilet training methods that punish, demean, or humiliate a child;
 - c. Rejecting, terrorizing, ignoring, isolating, or corrupting a child;
 - d. Using abusive, profane, sarcastic language, verbal abuse, threats, or derogatory remarks about the child or child's family;
 - e. Engaging in any form of public or private humiliation, including threats of physical punishment;

- f. While providing care for children, using and/or being under the influence of any substance that would impair an individual's ability to provide appropriate care of children.

E. Transportation

1. The resource parent must have access to reliable transportation to ensure that the child in care has access to school, community services, and the Department.
2. A child transported in a privately-owned motor vehicle must be in an age and size appropriate child safety restraint or seat belt.
3. Anyone who transports a child must have a valid driver's license in good standing in the state of Rhode Island, and the state of issuance, if applicable.
4. Any privately-owned vehicle used for the transport of children is required to adhere to state law and the rules and regulations of the Rhode Island Registry of Motor Vehicles and comply with state regulations for vehicles that transport children including:
 - a. Registration;
 - b. Inspections; and
 - c. Insurance.

F. Medical Care

1. The resource parent informs the Department of any medical care or treatment provided to the child in care.
2. The resource parent arranges for the child in care to receive timely medical care by a licensed practitioner to include routine and periodic examinations, vaccinations, prescribed treatment, vision and dental care with annual examinations and any follow-up treatment.
3. Except in emergencies, the resource parent makes no decisions regarding significant medical or surgical intervention, including the use of psychotropic medication, without the prior approval through the Department.

G. Education

1. The resource parent ensures that the child in care continues to attend his or her school or the resource parent enrolls the school-age child in care in an appropriate school within five school days of the child's placement into the home as indicated by the Department.
2. No child in care is permitted to be home-schooled.

H. Children's Money

1. Money earned or received as a gift or an allowance is the child's personal property.
2. The resource parent provides a child in care above the age of five years a reasonable weekly allowance.
3. The resource parent does not require a child in care to assume any part of the expenses relating to his or her care.

I. Visitation and Contacts

1. The resource parent supports visitation between the child in care and his or her family as outlined in the child's service plan.
2. Reasonable opportunity is provided for the child to use the resource parent home or mobile telephone to contact family and friends.
3. The resource parent must not restrict or censor correspondence to or from the child in care, except in accordance with the child's service plan.

J. Religion

1. The resource parent must not require or deny any religious observance or practice of a child in care, except upon the written request of the parent or guardian.
2. The resource parent must notify and receive approval from the Department before any change is made in the religious affiliation of a child in care.

K. Employment and Household Chores

1. The resource parent will not prevent or force a child in care to work
2. A child in care is not required to perform household chores in a manner dissimilar to any other child in the household of similar age or ability.

L. Clothing

1. The resource parent ensures that each child has clean, well-fitting and seasonal clothing, including inner and outerwear, as well as shoes, that are age and gender appropriate.
2. The child is permitted to take all of his or her clothing upon leaving the resource family's home.
3. In the event of an unplanned discharge, the resource parent makes reasonable provisions to protect the child's property.

4. All monies provided by the Department for clothing for a child in care must be expended exclusively on clothing for that child.
5. If the child leaves the home before receiving the clothing allowance check, the resource parent must return the check to the Department.

M. Personal Belongings

1. A child in care may bring personal belongings to the resource family's home.
2. The resource parent makes reasonable provisions for the protection of a child's property.
3. The resource parent ensures that the child in care is provided with his or her personal belongings when the child departs the home.

N. Personal Hygiene

1. The resource parent ensures that each child has the necessary articles for his or her own use to maintain personal hygiene.
2. The resource parent ensures the proper hygiene of a child in care that is unable to maintain hygiene on his or her own.

O. Social and Recreational Activities

1. The resource parent provides the child with opportunities and encouragement to engage in social and recreational activities that are generally considered typical for the child's age and stage of development, and that promote well-being.
2. The resource parent makes reasonable and prudent parenting decisions regarding a child's participation in social and recreational activities. The Department's approval of such decisions is not required.

P. Meals

1. The resource parent provides the child in care with a minimum of three well- balanced and nutritious meals each day at regular times, as well as snacks throughout the day.
2. The resource parent must not exclude the child from family meals.
3. The resource parent provides for any special dietary needs for the child as determined by proper medical authority or dictated by the child's religion or culture.

Q. Required Notification

1. The resource parent notifies the DCYF primary worker before allowing any person to visit in the home for more than 24 hours.
2. The resource parent notifies the Department before making plans for the care of the foster or pre-adoptive child by another person for a period of more than 48 hours.
3. The resource parent must comply with any request for the full name and date of birth for an individual in the home.
4. The resource parent notifies the Department within seven working days before taking the child in care out of state for more than 24 hours. Advance approval may be required through the Department.
5. The resource parent notifies the Department immediately in any instance that includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Death of a child;
 - b. Serious injury or illness involving the medical treatment of a child;
 - c. Serious emotional or behavioral crisis that may endanger the child in care or others;
 - d. When there is an allegation, concern, or knowledge that a child has been subjected to alleged abuse or neglect or has been the alleged victim of assault or other physical or sexual abuse;
 - e. Unauthorized absence of the child in care from the home;
 - f. Removal of the child in care from the home by any person or agency other than the placing agency, or any attempts at such removal;
 - g. Any fire or other emergency requiring the overnight evacuation of the premises;
 - h. Any exclusion of a child in care from school or involvement with police;
 - i. Any changes in the household composition; and
 - j. Any pending criminal charges or arrests of the resource parent and/or any household member.
6. The resource parent informs the Department as soon as possible, but not more than five working days following any circumstance that includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Any serious illness or death in the household;

- b. The permanent departure of any member of the household; and/or
 - c. Any other circumstance or incident seriously affecting the child or the child's care.
- 7. The resource parent informs the Department at least four weeks before a planned move of residence.

R. Removal Requests

- 1. If the resource parent wishes to request the removal of a child in care, he or she submits a written notice to the Department outlining the reasons why the child's removal is being requested, in accordance with the Department's Request for Removal of Child from Foster Care Home policy.
- 2. This notification is waived when the child in care is being moved due to safety issues in the placement, when the removal has been court ordered, or the parent or guardian has requested the return of the child in accordance with the terms of a voluntary agreement.