

**WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
NATALIE E. TENNANT
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

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OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
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Form #6

**NOTICE OF FINAL FILING AND ADOPTION OF A LEGISLATIVE RULE AUTHORIZED
BY THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

AGENCY: Family Protection Services Board TITLE NUMBER: 191

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES NO

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 4

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Monitored Parenting and Exchange Program
Certification

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

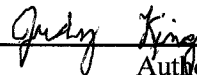
TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

THE ABOVE RULE HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

AUTHORIZATION IS CITED IN (house or senate bill number) SB199

SECTION §64-5-12, PASSED ON March 14, 2015

THIS RULE IS FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THIS RULE BECOMES EFFECTIVE ON THE
FOLLOWING DATE: 5/4/15



Authorized Signature

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TITLE 191
LEGISLATIVE RULE
FAMILY PROTECTION SERVICES BOARD

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

SERIES 4
MONITORED PARENTING AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM LICENSURE STANDARDS.

§191-4-1. General.

1.1. Scope - This rule implements the provisions of W.Va. Code 48-26-403 and Code of State Rules Title 191-Series 1, relating to the standards and procedures for the licensed monitored parenting and exchange programs. The West Virginia Code is available in public libraries and on the Legislatures' web page at <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/>.

1.2. Authority -- W. Va. Code §48-26-403.

1.3. Filing Date --

1.4. Effective Date 5/4/15

§191-4-2. Definitions.

2.1.a. "Monitored parenting and exchange program" means a licensed program offered by a locally controlled non-profit organization for purposes of providing neutral, safe and child-friendly environment to allow the child or children access to a parent or other adult without allowing contact between the adults.

2.1.b. "Monitored parenting" means the contact between a parent without custodial responsibility, a guardian or other adult and one or more children, in the presence of a third person who monitors the contact to promote the safety of the participants.

2.1.c. "Monitored exchange" means the observation of movement of a child or children from the custodial responsibility of one parent or guardian to the custodial responsibility of the other parent or other adult without allowing contact between adults.

§191-4-3. Licensure Standards for Monitored Parenting and Exchange Programs.

3.1. The purpose of licensure for a monitored parenting and exchange program is to assure the safety and welfare of the children, adults and program staff during monitored contact. Once safety is assured, the welfare of the child(ren) is the paramount consideration at all stages.

3.2 A monitored parenting and exchange program may be provided by an organization not incorporated by a larger body or by a subdivision of a larger organization. When monitored parenting and exchange services are provided by an agency whose primary mission is not monitored parenting and/or exchange, the agency shall be responsible for ensuring that staff or persons providing monitored parenting and exchange services are trained and qualified according to Section 3.7 of these rules and for providing services in conformity with all sections of these rules. Monitored parenting and exchange programs shall avoid dual roles, such as providing parenting/exchange services and also providing mediation of custody disputes or providing divorce counseling.

3.3 Nothing in these rules shall preclude a monitored parenting and exchange program from offering both monitored parenting and exchange services and supervised services.

3.4. A monitored parenting and exchange program shall establish written policies and procedures that shall include:

3.4.a. Services provided;

3.4.b. Confidentiality and release of information;

3.4.c. Participant acceptance and termination criteria;

3.4.d. Responsibilities of the participants;

3.4.e. Information to be gathered during the intake assessments;

3.4.f. Protocols for accepting and responding to concerns and complaints;

3.4.g. Documentation and record-keeping;

3.4.h. Reporting of criminal behavior and suspected abuse or neglect;

3.4.i. Hours of operation;

3.4.j. Fees;

3.4.k. Safety and security measures;

3.5. A monitored parenting and exchange program shall establish and report to a board of directors which shall meet at least quarterly and maintain minutes of all meetings, noting quorum status.

3.6. A monitored parenting and exchange program shall provide general liability insurance for board, staff, volunteers, and for participants utilizing the program.

3.7. A monitored parenting and exchange program shall maintain the following records:

3.7.a. A written personnel record for each employee or volunteer, including documents obtained or created by the program pertaining to the employee or volunteer.

3.7.b. Appropriate and accurate financial records. The records shall follow generally accepted accounting principles. Accounting and auditing procedures shall comply with the guidelines of the funding source(s).

3.7.c. A monitored parenting and exchange program shall have written policies and procedures for program evaluation that include:

3.7.c.1. An evaluation plan to determine the effectiveness of the program or service activities. Evaluation shall include participant input.

3.7.c.2. Statistics for evaluation and monitoring. Statistics shall be gathered in a manner that will not compromise client confidentiality.

3.7.c.3. A participant file for each participant which includes a copy of court order(s) if applicable, all intake information, a contract signed by the adults prior to using the program, written and signed releases of information, other agreements, and a record of each contact. Files are to be kept in a place not accessible to participants, and shall:

3.7.c.3.A. Include documentation of in-person intake interviews with each participant, including the children, conducted prior to the first visit, unless age inappropriate; and

3.7.c.3.B. Be updated after each parenting visitation or exchange to include:

3.7.c.3.C. Identifying client information;

3.7.c.3.D. Monitor name;

3.7.c.3.E. Date, time and duration of contact;

3.7.c.3.F. Who attended;

3.7.c.3.G. Account of critical incidents (violations of program guidelines);

3.7.c.3.H. Interventions made during the contact for the safety and well-being of participants, including early termination of the parenting visit with the reason for the intervention.

3.7.c.3.I. The reason or reasons for case closure.

3.8. A monitored parenting and exchange program shall assure that the facility:

3.8.a. Meets all local health and safety ordinances.

3.8.b. Complies with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements or make arrangements to accommodate individuals with special needs.

3.8.c. Maintain procedures regarding cleanliness of all surfaces, supplies, and equipment children may come in contact with to reduce exposure to germs and contaminants.

3.9. A monitored parenting and exchange program shall assure the program staff and volunteer quality by the following:

3.9.a. Having written job descriptions and background/criminal record checks for staff and volunteers;

3.9.b. Requiring program staff who monitor parenting visits and exchanges to have a minimum of twenty (20) hours of orientation training and volunteers to have a minimum of eight (8) hours of orientation training that includes the following topics.

3.9.b.1. Confidentiality;

3.9.b.2. Recording observations;

3.9.b.3. General security issues and procedures;

3.9.b.4. Legal context, court procedures; and

3.9.b.5. Cultural sensitivity

3.9.b.6. Family violence, including spousal abuse and child abuse and neglect including mandated reporting procedures;

3.9.b.7. Substance abuse detection and education;

3.9.b.8. Dynamics of separation and divorce;

3.9.b.9. Sexual assault.

3.9.c. Requiring program staff to maintain certification in first aid, CPR and training in emergency response methods;

3.9.d. Requiring program staff who monitor parenting visits and exchanges shall complete a minimum of ten (10) hours and volunteers to complete a minimum of five (5) hours annually in continuing education or in-service training relevant to the exchange and parenting services being provided.

3.10. A monitored parenting and exchange program shall have a written security policy that includes, but is not limited to:

3.10.a. Evacuation procedures in case of fire or other emergency;

3.10.b. Handling of critical incidents such as violent, dangerous or inappropriate behavior by an adult or child;

3.10.c. Handling of medical emergencies;

3.10.d. Procedures for arrival and departure of participants so that contact between them does not occur without the explicit agreement of the parties and the monitored parenting and exchange program;

3.11. A monitored parenting and exchange program shall have a written policy about referrals, including, but not limited to:

3.11.a. Information to be obtained from the referring agency;

3.11.b. Criteria for accepting and refusing referrals;

3.11.c. Procedure for responding to referring agencies;

3.11.d. Procedure for referring participants to other services/agencies;

3.11.e. Procedure for serving self-referrals when the adult parties agree to the use of the program; and

3.11.f. Procedure for notifying the Courts of case closure.

§191.4.4. Confidentiality.

4.1. A monitored parenting and exchange program shall have a written confidentiality policy that preserves the participants' rights of confidentiality and complies with all state and federal privacy laws—including the following:

4.1.a. No licensed program may disclose, reveal or release or be compelled to disclose, reveal or release, any written records or personal or personally identifying information about a program participant created or maintained in providing services, regardless of whether the information has been encoded, encrypted, hashed, or otherwise protected, pursuant to this article except:

4.1.b. Upon written consent, or upon oral consent in emergency situations defined by legislative rule, of the person seeking or who has sought services from the program;

4.1.c. In any proceeding brought under sections four and five, article six, chapter nine of this code or article six, chapter forty-nine of the West Virginia code;

4.1.d. As mandated by article six-a, chapter forty-nine and article six, chapter nine of the West Virginia code;

4.1.e. Pursuant to an order of any court based upon a finding that said information is sufficiently relevant to a proceeding before the court to outweigh the importance of maintaining the confidentiality established by this rule;

4.1.f. To protect against a clear and substantial danger of imminent injury by a person receiving services to himself or herself or another; or

4.1.g. To disclose Monitored parenting and exchange program information to one parent or guardian, without the permission of

the other parent or guardian, any perceived threat of harm or violation of the court order or violation of the monitored parenting and exchange program rules by the other parent or guardian;

4.2. No monitored parenting and exchange program may release information about the child without consent of the parent with custodial responsibility or guardian.

4.3. In addition to the provisions set forth in this section, the release of a victim's personally identifying information is subject to the provisions of 42 U.S.C. § 13925(b)(2).

4.4. No consent or authorization for the transmission or disclosure of confidential information is effective unless it is signed by the program participant whose information is being disclosed. Every person signing an authorization shall be given a copy.

4.5. A victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking shall not be required to provide consent to release his or her personally identifying information as a condition of eligibility for the services, nor may any personally-identifying information be shared in order to comply with federal or state reporting, evaluation, or data collection requirements: *Provided*, That nothing in this rule prohibits a program from reporting suspected abuse or neglect, as defined by law, when the program is mandated by law to report suspected abuse or neglect.