



Bureau for
Children and Families

Public Comments on Proposed Revisions to the
Child Placing Agencies Licensure (78 CSR 2)

#	Rule Section	By Whom?	Comment Summary	Response to Comment
1	3.1	WVCCA	3.1. Aftercare. -- Services to be provided or recommended subsequent to a child's or young-adult's discharge from placement as identified in the discharge plan.	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The proposed edit changes the meaning of the term.
2	3.5	NEECO	Should the age range of transitioning adult be added to this definition as well? 17 to 26.	The Department reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. Transitioning adult is defined within the rule.
3	3.7	WVCCA NEECO	Typo -- last line 17 TO 26 instead of or	Changes were made pursuant to this comment.
4	3.9	WVCCA	Change the word "specialized" needs of the child to "individualized" needs of the child	Changes were made pursuant to this comment.
5	3.12	WVCCA	Remove "Crisis support" definition from the rule	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. Definition needs to remain in the rule.
6	3.14	WVCCA	3.14. Discharge. -- The termination of a child's affiliation services with an agency. Replace affiliation with services.	Changes were made pursuant to this comment.
7	3.16	WVCCA	3.16. Foster Family Home. -- A private residence that is used for the care on a residential-care basis of no more than six five (5) or less children who are unrelated by blood, marriage or adoption to any adult member of the household. <i>out-of-home care of children</i>	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The current definition matches the definition that is currently in West Virginia Code.
8	3.22	WVCCA	Remove Intake Service Plan definition and replace it with: Initial Plan of Care. "Initial Plan of care is developed in the first 7 days of intake, if the child is in the Department's custody, and if a Safety or a Child's Case	Changes were made pursuant to this comment.



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			Plan exists and is provided to the provider, they must be incorporated in the Initial Plan of Care".	
			Requesting additional language be added to the Transitional Adult definition.	Changes were made to clarify this definition.
9	3.45	WVCCA	Additional language needed to include 18-21 years of age living in a foster care home. Example: 18 year old adult living in a foster home must obtain criminal background checks and may attend college.	
10	3.46	WVCCA	Transitional Living -- A supervised living arrangement developed to assist children or young adults <i>other teens or Transitioning Adults</i> in the custody of the Department in acquiring skills and competencies to become independent Proposed striking children or young adults and replacing with older teens and Transitioning Adults	Changes were made to clarify this definition.
11	3.46	NECCO	Transitional Living -- can the word young adult be utilized as 17-26 yrs of age is not a child. This would be throughout the document. Remove	Changes were made to clarify this definition.
12	4.1.3	WVCCA	A license is valid only for the agency named in the application and is not transferable.	The Department reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The regulation is reasonable.
13	4.1.4	WVCCA	4.1.4. 4.1.4. When the ownership of an agency changes, the new owner shall apply for a license and shall not operate until a provisional license is issued. * This implies during a merger, all children will be forced to be removed from the merging agency/agencies existing foster homes. Certified homes would no longer be certified or valid providers meaning no children could remain in	Changes were made pursuant to this comment.

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			those homes and would need alternate placement immediately. No transition services could be provided as the agency would not be recognized as a child placing agency at the time of merger. This will cause not only a disruption for children in placement and additional trauma for the children but an overall shortage in foster care and an undue burden on families.	
14	4.2.1	WVCCA	Add "an initial" To apply for an initial license.....	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The regulation is reasonable.
15	4.2.1.f	WVCCA	A new agency will not have an annual audit.	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The rule reads "accounting procedures, including an annual audit from a CPA, are in place," not that the audit as already occurred.
16	4.2.1.h	WVCCA	Questioning what an administrative manual is....	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response.
17	4.2.1.i	WVCCA	The packet of forms that will be used to compile complete case records for children, foster or adoptive parents, and employees of the agency; This could now be electronic file not a paper file.	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The rule does not require it to be a paper file.
18	4.2.2	WVCCA	The agency is subject to an investigation a review process that includes but is not limited to: Proposes removing investigation and replacing with "a review process" and noted....Not clear why this section is needed as any item in series 2 is reviewable.	Changes were made pursuant to this comment.

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19	4.2.2.b	WVCCA	<p>Note: non-profit agencies to do not have principle owners</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The regulation is reasonable.</p>
20	4.4	WVCCA	<p>Omit and replace Amendment of a License. When implementing a new service or changing a program, an agency shall submit to the Department an application for a proposed amendment to the license.</p> <p>Any license issued may be amended under the following conditions: program changes, implementing a new service, address change, change in ownership. (Wording originally indicated would eliminate the ability to pilot new program models or additional service pilots).</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. A change in ownership is not appropriate through the amended license process.</p>
21	5.1.3	NECCO	<p>Some of the agencies governing board members are out of state. The request is to add that they can be interviewed via technology if needed.</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. "Access" is a broad term that is not limited to in-person access.</p>
22	5.1.3	FFTA Blueprints	<p>Agencies would like to request that this access to staff and board members within 3 business days be inclusive of access by phone or virtual methods as some agencies are in more than one state and may have members of the board who are not local.</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. "Access" is a broad term that is not limited to in-person access.</p>
23	5.3.1	WVCCA	<p>5.3.1. After a complaint investigation, the Secretary may require an agency to submit a plan of correction within thirty (30) days of the date of <u>after the receipt of the</u> written summary of the investigation. <u>Depending on the nature of the investigation, the Secretary may require the plan of correction to be submitted as he or she deems appropriate, within a designated timeline not to exceed including immediately, but no more than 30 days.</u></p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. There are times that an immediate correction could be necessary.</p>
24	5.3.c.	KVC	<p>Agencies are notified of correction needs by U.S. mail which often places the agency at a disadvantage in meeting this timeframe. Suggested change: "When the Secretary provides written notification that a proposed</p>	<p>This comment references a previous version. Changes were made in the filed version.</p>



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25	5.3.3	FFTA Blueprints	<p>plan of correction is not approved, an agency shall submit another plan of correction within seven working days of receiving said notification."</p> <p>Agencies are notified of correction needs by U.S. mail which often places the agency at a disadvantage in meeting the previously established timeframe. Agencies approve this new language that includes "of the notification" as this allows agencies to meet the seven day time frame appropriately.</p> <p>The waiver or variance agreement is subject to immediate cancellation if an agency fails to comply with the stated terms of this rule--the issued waiver or variance agreement.</p>	<p>No comment is required.</p>
26	5.4.4	WVCCA	<p>Replace "this rule" with.... the issued waiver or variance agreement.</p> <p>Setting Approving policy, defining and overseeing services, and being legally accountable for the operation of an agency;</p> <p>Not all boards are operation but may be strategic boards who would not be responsible or qualified to define and oversee services instead charging a CEO or a designated person responsible for this duty.</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. This suggestion limits the scope of regulation.</p>
27	6.3.1.a	WVCCA	<p>Implementing Approve a mission statement of purpose that sets forth an agency's goals and objectives, and defines the services and programs to be offered to meet the goals and objectives;</p> <p>Developing Approving the policies and procedures relating to the operation of its services and programs and compliance with W. Va. Code §49-2-101, et seq., and this rule; and</p> <p>Note: Not appropriate for Boards to set procedures.</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The board should oversee and define the services of the program.</p>
28	6.3.1.b	WVCCA	<p>Implementing Approve a mission statement of purpose that sets forth an agency's goals and objectives, and defines the services and programs to be offered to meet the goals and objectives;</p> <p>Developing Approving the policies and procedures relating to the operation of its services and programs and compliance with W. Va. Code §49-2-101, et seq., and this rule; and</p> <p>Note: Not appropriate for Boards to set procedures.</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. "implementing" is the appropriate term.</p>
29	6.3.1.c	WVCCA	<p>Implementing Approve a mission statement of purpose that sets forth an agency's goals and objectives, and defines the services and programs to be offered to meet the goals and objectives;</p> <p>Developing Approving the policies and procedures relating to the operation of its services and programs and compliance with W. Va. Code §49-2-101, et seq., and this rule; and</p> <p>Note: Not appropriate for Boards to set procedures.</p>	<p>Changes were made pursuant to this comment.</p>

#	Rule Section	By Whom?	Comment Summary	Response to Comment
30	6.6.1	WVCCA	<p>Children in Placement. Each child's or young-adult's record shall include, <i>if known or if provided</i>:</p> <p>DHHR has to provide information for providers to comply. It is inappropriate to hold providers accountable or require additional efforts when DHHR does not fulfill their responsibility</p> <p>Omit entirely.</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The agency is responsible for attempting to get this information.</p>
31	6.6.1.b	WVCCA	<p>The intent of the rule is to have the documents. This implies providers will be out of compliance without using this required lists as a tracking method versus simply a Table of Content List.</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The itemized list could be a table of content list.</p>
32	6.6.1.d	WVCCA	<p>Omit entirely</p> <p>DHHR has to provide information for providers to comply. It is inappropriate to hold providers accountable or require additional efforts when DHHR does not fulfill their responsibility.</p> <p>Agencies believe the current language makes it sound like there is one narrative document that encompasses all three of the listed items which are different and stand-alone items/events. Suggestion that this should be re-worded to clarify this: <i>"A comprehensive narrative report of the initial certification process. Thereafter, narrative summaries of the annual home safety assessments and recertifications."</i></p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The agency is responsible for attempting to get this information.</p>
33	6.6.2.f	FFTA Blueprints		<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The filed modification is clear that it can be multiple reports.</p>
34	6.6.2.k	WVCCA	<p>A completed "Statement of Child/Adult Abuse or Neglect History CPS/APS" form;</p>	<p>Changes were made pursuant to this comment.</p>
35	6.6.3.f	WVCCA	<p>A Completed "Statement of Child/Adult Abuse or Neglect History CPS/APS" form;</p>	<p>Changes were made pursuant to this comment.</p>

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36	5.7.1.e.	WVCCA 	Submitting a written report of the emergency or incident to the director per the agency's policy within forty-eight (48) hours of the date of the emergency or incident, that includes a complete description of the emergency or incident, the date and time it occurred, names of the individuals involved, precipitating factors, statements of witnesses, immediate actions taken by employees or other persons and other relevant information concerning the incident; --use change indicated "per agency policy" (Reads as the recommendation to a policy & procedure is open to mandating from the DHR as to the "how" and "what" is overreaching DHR role.	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. Specific requirements and timeframes are necessary for reports of emergencies or incidents.
37	5.7.1.f	WVCCA	OMIT Changing the child's service plan or changing policy and procedures at the recommendation of the Secretary following an emergency or incident and Note: Not needed as a standalone item due to this would be addressed in a Corrective Action Plan which must be approved by the Secretary.	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. This regulation is needed to ensure changing the child's service plan or changing policy to available.
38	7.1	FFTA Blueprints	Agencies are in agreement with the changes in this section as they do not believe that the state or licensing regulations should dictate agency employment practices; rather each agency should have their own written protocols and practices to cover this. These changes are now more reflective of the minimal statements that an agency must have written employment practices.	No comment is required.
39	7.1.1	WVCCA 	An agency shall develop and implement a staffing plan to provide for the effective implementation of its services and programs that includes for each service position in the agency, a job description for each position detailing the responsibilities, qualifications, and supervisory chain	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. A staffing plan is necessary.

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			<p>Remove: a staffing plan to provide for the effective implementation of its services and programs that includes for each service position in the agency.</p> <p>If language changes are not accepted; please change "each position" to "direct care and supervisor positions". As currently stated, we need staffing patterns for staff in clerical, IT, finance, etc.)</p> <p>An agency shall designate a supervisor for each separate service or program.</p>	<p>Changes were made pursuant to this comment.</p>
40	7.1.2	WVCCA	<p>The staffing plan shall include a policy guideline on case load size and the frequency and nature of the staff contact with children.</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The term "guideline" changes the purpose of the regulation.</p>
41	7.1.4	WVCCA	<p>That a child not cannot stay overnight in the home of an employee, unless the child is in a transitional living program.</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. Any agency may prohibit this practice within their own policies.</p>
42	7.2.4.c	WVCCA NECCO	<p>No youth should be staying in the residence of an employee. Not sure if this was meant to reference a residential/group home setting where the housing is used as an ongoing service delivery method? Please remove that or clarify. Scattered Site, transitional living and a few other terms are used in what seems to be an interchangeable way – that should be cleaned up.</p>	<p>Changes were made pursuant to this comment.</p>
43	7.2.5	CHS	<p>Missing Phrase: <u>not be considered for foster or adoptive parenting by the agency that employs them</u></p> <p>Need to add the phrase "by the agency"</p>	<p>Changes were made pursuant to this comment.</p>


#	Rule Section	By Whom?	Comment Summary	Response to Comment
44	8.1	FFTA Blueprints	<p>Agencies are in full agreement with the changes in this section. In particular, agencies are very supportive of the removal of the Homefinder requirements as there is a work force shortage that prevents agencies from easily recruiting, hiring, and maintaining licensed social workers. Positions currently requiring licensure could now be more easily be filled with workers who have related four year degrees and experience in the social work field with each agency providing specific training for duties in these respective roles.</p> <p>Recommendation that these sections be struck from the regulations. Agencies should have their own written employment standards and practices regarding employee requirements.</p> <p>Should this section remain, agencies recommend that the social work licensure requirement be removed. There is a work force shortage that prevents agencies from easily recruiting, hiring, and maintaining licensed social workers. Positions currently requiring licensure could more easily be filled with workers who have four-year degrees and experience in the human services field and each agency provides specific training for duties in these respective roles. (It is marked through – but we need to ensure it stays that way)</p> <p>Current practice of WV DHHR is to hire workers with ANY four-year degree and place them in these positions and provide them training whereas private agencies are not awarded the same opportunity. The same hiring practices of DHHR should be extended to private agencies.</p>	No comment is required.
45	8.1 and 8.2	NECCO		The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. Some changes, additions and deletions have been proposed in the filed rule.
46	8.1.3	WVCCA	<p>Clinical and Therapeutic employees, including Physicians, Counselors Therapists, Clinical or Certified Master's level Social Workers, and Psychologists shall have valid West Virginia professional licenses in their fields and shall operate within the scope of their practice under W.Va. Code §§30-3-1 et seq., 30-14-1 et seq., 30-21-1 et seq., 30-30-1 et seq., or 30-31-1 et seq.</p>	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. Some changes, additions and deletions have been proposed in the filed rule.

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47	8.1.4	WVCCA 	<p>a Bachelor's or master's or Board of Regents degree in social work or a related human service field, or an advanced degree from a program of social work education or a comparable human service field.</p> <p>Needs to include "Board of Regents" degree due to extreme lack of WV workforce.</p>	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. Some changes, additions and deletions have been proposed in the filed rule.
48	8.1.4	CHS	<p>Comment: Children's Home Society believes in the value of requiring the homefinder and the case manager both to have a bachelor's or master's degree in social work or a degree in a related human service field. Rather than reducing the requirements, WV should focus on finding ways to partner with colleges to recruit more professionally trained employees. Homefinders and case managers should be required to have supervision provided by a person with a higher level of experience and licensing.</p> <p>Suggestion: A bachelor's or master's degree in social work or a related human service field with supervision provided by a person with an advanced degree in social work or a comparable human service field and has a valid license issued by the West Virginia Board of Social Work</p>	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. Some changes, additions and deletions have been proposed in the filed rule.
49	8.2.1	WVCCA 	<p>8.2.1. Orientation Training. An agency shall require that all direct care service employees <u>be</u> included <u>included</u> in child placing services, within three (3) months of employment, complete a minimum of forty (40) hours <u>hours</u> of orientation training in areas including:</p> <p>Topics list and quality are more important than stretching time to arbitrarily meet hours required. Remove hours required to assure quality of training occurred.</p>	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. A minimum number of hours is necessary.
50	8.2.1.b	WVCCA	Licensing rules and the legal aspects of substitute care	Changes were made pursuant to this comment.

#	Rule Section	By Whom?	Comment Summary	Response to Comment
51	8.2.1.j.	WVCCA	REMOVE: and the legal aspects of substitute care; Change "Runaway" to "Absent from Supervision"	Changes were made to clarify this regulation. The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The filed rule requires training, not certification.
52	8.2.1.k	WVCCA	8.2.1.k be numbered 8.2.a.10 First Aid and CPR Training appropriate to the age of the children they serve. Remove: appropriate to the age of the children they serve. <i>NOTE: CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING ARE NOT THE SAME</i>	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. This regulation is in 8.2.2.a.
53		WVCCA	Add: 8.2.a.11 An agency shall require that all employees providing direct services to clients receive initial training to include values and cultural diversity, ethics, child abuse and neglect issues, and behavior management. This group of initial trainings shall be completed within the first six months of employment. <i>Note; Moved from 8.2.d.1 Old Rule</i>	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. A minimum number of hours is necessary.
54	8.2.2.a	WVCCA	Remove the hour requirement. An agency shall require that all employees providing direct services to clients receive at least twenty (20) hours of ongoing additional training within six (6) months of employment in areas including assessment of family dynamics, human growth and development, in the areas of values and cultural diversity, ethics, child abuse and neglect issues, trauma, the Adoption and Safe Families Act and behavior management, within the first six months of employment.	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. A minimum number of hours is necessary.



#	Rule Section	By Whom?	Comment Summary	Response to Comment
55	8.4.1	WVCCA	<p>An agency which <u>that</u> uses volunteer services, including student field placements and internships, shall develop and implement a plan for their specific use, shall provide that an agency employee oversee their service, and shall provide training, prior to their beginning service, on:</p> <p>Comment: Many agencies utilize volunteers in group settings for limited individual activities. For example, community volunteers putting on a holiday party or holding a picnic for foster children. As long as these volunteers are supervised by agency staff, they should be exempt from the requirements for the type of volunteers described above.</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. Training should be provided prior to beginning services.</p>
56	8.4.2 + 8.4.3	CHS	<p>Suggested wording to add to 8.4.2 and 8.4.3: Volunteers for individual events and activities directly supervised by agency staff are exempt from these requirements.</p> <p>Agencies rely on community partnerships with churches (and other organizations) in efforts to recruit foster parents and spread awareness on child abuse. These organizations may only assist with one event and would be working along-side of trained and certified staff, they would not be working independently or alone with children and therefore should not be required to complete background checks and medical screenings. Other types of volunteers (such as tutors) who may work more independently or alone with children would need required background and medical checks. Agencies recommend there be better clarifying language to differentiate this: <u>"An agency shall require volunteers who work independently and/or alone with youth to..."</u></p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The filed rule requires background checks for volunteers working directly with youth.</p>
57	8.4.2 and 8.4.3	FFTA Blueprints	<p>An agency shall require volunteers who are working directly with youth to provide references, complete a Statement of Criminal Record form, complete background checks in accordance with the provisions of the WV CARES act and rules and complete a Child/Adult Abuse or Neglect History form, CPS/AP's check.</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The filed rule requires background checks for volunteers working directly with youth.</p>
58	8.4.2	WVCCA	<p>Changes were made pursuant to this comment.</p>	<p>Changes were made pursuant to this comment.</p>

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59	8.4.3	WVCCA	This does not take into consideration a volunteer who may only volunteer for a special event vs regular volunteering hours.	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The filed rule requires background checks for volunteers working directly with youth.
60	9.3.3.a	WVCCA	If required to follow Sander's Consent Decree, DHHR is requested to define this and provide a copy to providers.	Changes were made pursuant to this comment.
61	9.3.3.b	NECCO FFTA Blueprints	<p>The current rule regulates that the initial medical exam must occur within 72 hours after a child being placed, however agencies are often not able to be in compliance with this due to the WV DHHR often failing to provide the required 40, 40A or medical card that the doctor requires to hold the appointment. Suggest this regulation be changed to the appointment being required within 72 hours of the proper documentation being provided to agencies/foster parents.</p> <p>Agencies recommend this regulation be changed to : <u>"For children with extraordinary medical needs, unless a medical examination can be documented within the previous 30 days or the child was discharged from an inpatient facility, the child is to be examined by a physician within 72 hours of the child placing agency or foster parents being provided a medical card. The physician should document that the child can be appropriately cared for in a home setting."</u></p>	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. Children with extraordinary medical needs who have not been seen by a physician within the previous 30 days need to be seen within 72 hours of placement.
62	9.3.3.k	FFTA Blueprints	Agencies are in support of the addition of this statement. Different Department workers and licensing specialists had different interpretations about this rule and agencies were concerned that despite the language of "prescribing a medication" there had been some workers/ licensing specialists who had considered over the counter medications to fall under this rule.	No comment is required.

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63	9.3.c.2. (now 9.3.3.b.)	KVC	<p>The current rule regulates that the initial medical exam must occur within 72 hours after a child being placed, however agencies are often not able to be in compliance with this due to the WV DHHR often failing to provide the required 40, 40A or medical card that the doctor requires to hold the appointment. Suggest this regulation be changed to the appointment being required within 72 hours of the proper documentation being provided to agencies/foster parents.</p> <p>Agencies do not believe that such specific requirements belong in legislative rule and may be better suited in contract agreements. Suggestion for all four of these areas be less prescriptive and only have language that agencies are responsible for having a policy or procedure for completing intakes, written service agreements, intake service plans, and child assessments.</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The current requirement is reasonable.</p>
64	10.2 - 10.5	KVC NECCO FFTA	<p>10.4 - 10.5.12 Omit all and replace with</p> <p>Service Plans. Based on the intake interview and available referral information, an agency shall develop an initial plan of care within 7 days of placement to be signed and dated by the child, if appropriate to his or her age, and the child's biological parent or guardian. A Master Service Plan will be created within 30 days of placement that is inclusive of the services, assessments, evaluations, and specific management strategies. The Master Service Plan shall be reviewed every 90 days to include progress, barriers, and the identification of any new needs, goals, or objectives. All plans shall be signed and dated by the members of the planning team and a copy given to each member of the team.</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. These requirements are appropriate in the rule to provide consistency among all child placing agencies.</p>
65	10.4 -10.5.12	WVCCA 	<p>Child assessment. An agency shall complete a detailed narrative child assessment prior to developing the Master Service Plan. The assessment shall be inclusive of the removal history, placement history, social history, developmental history, educational history, medical</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. These requirements are appropriate in the rule to provide consistency among all child placing agencies.</p>

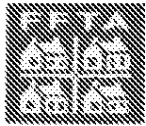
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66	10.5.14	WVCCA	<p>history, psychological history, visitation plans, and discharge planning period.</p> <p>Omit entirely.</p> <p>For emergency placements, a summary of circumstances that describe the immediate conditions that led to the placement and as much information as is available about the child at the time of admission, completed within two (2) working days of admission.</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. For emergency placement, a summary of circumstance is necessary.</p>
67	10.6	WVCCA	<p>Omit 10.6</p> <p>This information will be captured on the placement log and therefore a separate summary is not necessary.</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The match summary is required and necessary for placement purposes.</p>
68	10.7	WVCCA	<p>Omit 10.7</p> <p>This section can only be performed by the WVDHHR prior to placement with the provider; therefore the 10.7 section should be removed as a child placing provider regulation.</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. These rules also govern agencies that provided private adoption services.</p>
69	10.8 - 10.8.2	WVCCA	<p>Omit 10.8 Preparation of a Child for Placement.</p> <p>Note: Child Placing Agency does not have child prior to placement therefore 10.8 section should be removed as a child placing provider regulation.</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. In cases where the child is placed with an agency, the agency should prepare and support the child before moving placements.</p>
70	10.9.2	WVCCA	<p>Replace shall include with members to be invited.</p> <p>The planning team shall include members to be invited; the child as appropriate to his or her level of understanding, the parents or guardian, foster parent, the family's case manager, the placing worker, the child's attorney, professionals working with the child, and other individuals significant in the child's life that have an interest in the child.</p>	<p>Changes were made pursuant to this comment.</p>

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71	10.9.3	WVCCA	Note: Child Placing Agencies do not receive the Child's Case Plan. The Child Placing Agency must be invited to the MDT. Omit 10.10. <u>Master Service Plan</u> . Language submitted in 10.4 -10.5.12 above.	No response is required. The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. See comment 63.
72	10.10 -- 10.11.4	WVCCA		
73	11.2	WVCCA	Omit 11.2 although Child Placing Agencies complete a discharge plan from the beginning, this information is rarely known by the Child Placing Agency; therefore this cannot be completed. This responsibility should lie with the WVDHHR worker and the MDT	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The agencies are required to have a discharge plan.
74	11.2	NECCO	Discharges are largely out of the hands of agencies and are decided upon by MDT or Court Proceedings and often after, the child has already exited care. Therefore, agencies believe it unreasonable to have these expectations placed upon them and it appears better suited for DHHR workers or the MDT. 11.2 Would it be better to classify these as planned and unplanned discharges. 11.3 speaks to emergency discharges...but another category that captures when they are ordered home by judge, etc. with no plan or notice.	See comment 71.
75	11.2.5	WVCCA	Omit 11.2.5 An account of the child's awareness and understanding of his or her aftercare plan;	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. Children need to be aware of their aftercare plan.
76	11.3	KVC	Discharges are largely out of the hands of agencies and are decided upon by MDT or Court Proceedings and often agencies do not receive notification until the day of, or	See comment 71.

#	Rule Section	By Whom?	Comment Summary	Response to Comment
			after, the child has already exited care. Therefore, agencies believe it unreasonable to have these expectations placed upon them and it appears better suited for DHHR workers or the MDT.	
77	11.4.1	FFTA Blueprints	Agencies are in support of the addition of language pertaining to foster families experiencing calamities. Previously, agencies had concerns the rule language was too restrictive. There are times that emergency discharges have to occur for reasons other than a child's behavior. There may be instances when there are foster parent circumstances or household changes that require emergency moves (in example: house fire, flooding, death in family..etc). The additional language added now helps cover these types of circumstances.	No response is necessary
78	11.4.3	WVCCA	Omit 11.4.3 Note: WVDHHR approves emergency removal and discharge.	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The worker must always be made aware of any removal or discharge.
79	11.4.4	WVCCA 	Omit 11.4.4. Note: if emergency placement is arranged outside of the agency, this is the WVDHHR responsibility. Agency staff have no legal authority to do so.	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The worker must always be made aware of any removal or discharge.
80	11.4.5	WVCCA 	Omit 11.4.5. The child shall be accompanied by a designated agency employee to the receiving agency or individual; and	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. This regulation is necessary for times when DHHR is not involved in the transport.
81	12.2.4	WVCCA	Provide complete information about a child's background..... Add "if known".	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The agencies are required to attempt to obtain the information.
82	12.2.5	WVCCA	Involve foster or adoptive parents on the child's service planning team and provide them a copy of the child's make-service-plan initial plan of care and all subsequent plans;	Changes were made pursuant to this comment.

#	Rule Section	By Whom?	Comment Summary	Response to Comment
83	12.2.12	WVCCA	Give foster or adoptive parents ten-(10) working days' notice prior to removing a child, when the agency receives notice from the Department unless it is an emergency situation or court order.	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The regulation does not require the agency to provide notice that the agency has not received.
84	12.2.13	WVCCA	Inform adoptive parents of the child's legal status prior to and upon the final adoption; and legal status would be "able to be adopted", adoption occurs at the hearing which the adoptive parents must attend.	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The legal status could change during the placement.
85	13.2.2	WVCCA	Omit 13.2.2 This cannot legally be required by the agency.	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. It is appropriate to request additional examinations of household members of a foster family if there are indications that the safety or well-being of a child in care may be jeopardized by the physical and mental health of a household member.
86	13.2.C. 13.2.3	KVC NECCP FFTA Blueprints	There may be circumstances after a foster parent certification in which the foster parent's health, behavior, emotional, or psychological make-up may change and they are no longer suitable to continue foster parenting. Agencies would like for this section to include language that allows for the discontinuation or closure of a foster home if these conditions arise. The inclusion of " ,maintain or recertify," (after An agency shall not approve...) would provide support to agencies to properly discontinue or close homes who no longer are appropriate.	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. Agencies already have the ability to close a home in these circumstances.
87	13.5.2	WVCCA	13.5.2. if foster or adoptive parents are, or a single foster or adoptive parent is, employed outside the home, the agency shall approve a plan for the care and supervision of the child during work hours, and the plan shall be included in the child's service plan.	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The plan for childcare should be in the child's service plan.
88	13.6.3	WVCCA	Omit entirely.	The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. A childcare provider

#	Rule Section	By Whom?	Comment Summary	Response to Comment
89	17.4	DHHR	<p>Note: This does not comply with Normalcy and Prudent Parent standards. This does not allow for a youth to go to a friend's home, have an overnight visit with a friend, a babysitter to watch a child while a parent runs to the store.</p> <p>Clarify protected classes.</p>	<p>must complete the appropriate background checks. A childcare provider differs from the examples give in the comment.</p>
90	18.4 +18.4.1	CHS	<p>Suggested Wording: Documentation of 15 hours in the first year and 12 hours in subsequent years of in-service training completed;</p> <p>Remove everything after emergency placements</p> <p>Emergency Child Placements in Prospective Foster Care. An agency shall establish a pretest procedure for emergency placements that includes the following provisions:</p> <p>21.2.a. 20.2.1. At the time of placement the agency shall provide as much information as is known about the child to the prospective foster or adoptive parents, and shall provide additional information when it is available or as soon as the child assessment is completed;</p> <p>20.2.2. An agency shall identify the needs and strengths of the child; and</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. Agencies may require additional hours for their foster families.</p> <p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. A minimum requirement for procedures is necessary to maintain consistency among child placing agencies.</p>
91	20.2, 20.2.1 & 20.2.2	WVCCA	<p>Note: This is an emergency placement. The Child Placing Agency has little to no information regarding the child.</p>	
92	25.5	NECCO	<p>Does this refer to a roommate who is also in the TL program? Not sure that it would be a good idea to have another person that is not in TL with the young adult that is in care? This would open other needs such as background checks and enforcement of agency rules for the non-committed youth or adult.</p>	<p>The Department has reviewed this comment and no changes were made in response. The roommate is not required to be in a TL program. For young adults over the age of 18, roommates will not be required to have a background check.</p>



Family
Focused
Treatment
Association



July 31, 2020

RE: Written Comments for Proposed Changes to WV Child Placing Agencies Licensure 78-CSR-2

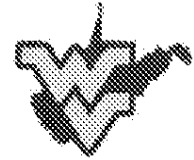
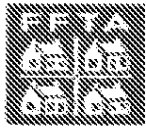
To Whom it May Concern;

The WV Chapter of FFTA met for a review of the proposed changes to the Child Placing Agencies Licensure. Enclosed, please find the comments and proposed changes as agreed upon by the FFTA group comprised of:

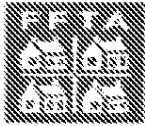
- Bethany
- Blueprints
- B & T
- BUMFS
- Children's Home Society
- Genesis
- KVC
- NECCO
- Potomac Center
- Pressley Ridge
- WV Youth Advocate Program

We appreciate your review and consideration of our comments and proposals. Should you have any further questions for the group pertaining to our submission, please feel free to contact the Chapter Chair- Melinda Waterman, MA with Blueprints at mwaterman@myblueprints.org

Sincerely,
Melinda Waterman, MA
WV State Supervisor- Blueprints
WV FFTA Chapter Chair



Rule Number	Comments/Suggestions
5.1.3	Agencies would like to request that this access to staff and board members within 3 business days be inclusive of access by phone or virtual methods as some agencies are in more than one state and may have members of the board who are not local.
5.3.3.	Agencies are notified of correction needs by U.S. mail which often places the agency at a disadvantage in meeting the previously established timeframe. Agencies approve this new language that includes "of the notification" as this allows agencies to meet the seven day time frame appropriately.
6.6.2.f.	Agencies believe the current language makes it sound like there is one narrative document that encompasses all three of the listed items which are different and stand-alone items/events. Suggestion that this should be re-worded to clarify this: <u><i>"A comprehensive narrative report of the initial certification process. Thereafter, narrative summaries of the annual home safety assessments and recertifications."</i></u>
7.1	Agencies are in agreement with the changes in this section as they do not believe that the state or licensing regulations should dictate agency employment practices; rather each agency should have their own written protocols and practices to cover this. These changes are now more reflective of the minimal statements that an agency must have written employment practices.
8.1	Agencies are in full agreement with the changes in this section. In particular, agencies are very supportive of the removal of the Homefinder requirements as there is a work force shortage that prevents agencies from easily recruiting, hiring, and maintaining licensed social workers. Positions currently requiring licensure could now be more easily be filled with workers who have related four year degrees and experience in the social work field with each agency providing specific training for duties in these respective roles.
8.4.2 and 8.4.3.	Agencies rely on community partnerships with churches (and other organizations) in efforts to recruit foster parents and spread awareness on child abuse. These organizations may only assist with one event and would be working along-side of trained and certified staff, they would not be working independently or alone with children and therefore should not be required to complete background checks and medical screenings. Other types of volunteers (such as tutors) who may work more independently or alone with children would need required background and medical checks. Agencies recommend there be better clarifying language to differentiate this: <u><i>"An agency shall require volunteers who work independently and/or alone with youth to..."</i></u>
9.3.3.b.	The current rule regulates that the initial medical exam must occur within 72 hours after a child being placed, however agencies and foster families are often not able to be in compliance with this due to the WV DHHR often failing to provide the required 40, 40A or medical card that the doctor requires to hold the appointment and complete payment. Agencies recommend this regulation be changed to : <u><i>"For children with extraordinary medical needs, unless a medical examination can be documented within the previous 30 days or the child was discharged from an inpatient facility, the child is to be examined by a physician within 72 hours of the</i></u>



	<i>child placing agency or foster parents being provided a medical card. The physician should document that the child can be appropriately cared for in a home setting."</i>
9.3.3.k	Agencies are in support of the addition of this statement. Different Department workers and licensing specialists had different interpretations about this rule and agencies were concerned that despite the language of "prescribing a medication" there had been some workers/ licensing specialists who had considered over the counter medications to fall under this rule.
10.2 – 10.5	Agencies do not believe that such specific requirements belong in legislative rule and may be better suited in contract agreements. Suggestion for all four of these areas be less prescriptive and only have language that agencies are responsible for having a policy or procedure for completing intakes, written service agreements, intake service plans, and child assessments.
11.4.1.	Agencies are in support of the addition of language pertaining to foster families experiencing calamities. Previously, agencies had concerns the rule language was too restrictive. There are times that emergency discharges have to occur for reasons other than a child's behavior. There may be instances when there are foster parent circumstances or household changes that require emergency moves (in example: house fire, flooding, death in family..etc). The additional language added now helps cover these types of circumstances.
13.2.3.	There may be circumstances after a foster parent certification in which the foster parent's health, behavior, emotional, or psychological make-up may change and they are no longer suitable to continue foster parenting. Agencies would like for this section to include language that allows for the discontinuation or closure of a foster home if these conditions arise. The inclusion of "maintain or recertify," (after An agency shall not approve...) would provide support to agencies to properly discontinue or close homes who no longer are appropriate.

KVC COMMENT SUBMISSION ON 78-CSR-2

KVC West Virginia submits the following suggested changes to 78-CSR-2, which is currently open for public comment. These comments are commensurate with the comments of the West Virginia Chapter of FFTA. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Erin Keitner, Vice President of Clinical Services at erikeitner@wvfc.org or at 304-347-9818.

Rule Number	Comments/Suggestions
5.3.c.	Agencies are notified of correction needs by U.S. mail which often places the agency at a disadvantage in meeting this timeframe. Suggested change: "When the Secretary provides written notification that a proposed plan of correction is not approved, an agency shall submit another plan of correction within seven working days of receiving said notification."
6.6.b.6	Agencies believe this working makes it sound like there is one narrative document that encompasses all three of the listed items which are different and stand-alone items. Suggestion that this should be re-worded to clarify this.
7.2	Agencies do not believe that the state or licensing regulations should dictate agency employment practices; rather each agency should have their own written protocols and practices to cover this. Suggestion to strike 7.2a through 7.3.a and replace with just a minimal statement that an agency must have written employment practices.
8.1 and 8.2	Recommendation that these sections be struck from the regulations. Agencies should have their own written employment standards and practices regarding employee requirements. Should this section remain, agencies recommend that the social work licensure requirement be removed. There is a work force shortage that prevents agencies from easily recruiting, hiring, and maintaining licensed social workers. Both of these positions could more easily be filled with workers who have related four year degrees and experience in the social work field and would then move into very specific training for their duties. There is not a level playing field in this area as the WV DHHR is able to hire workers with any four year degree and place them in this position and provide them training whereas private agencies are not awarded the same opportunity.
8.4.b and 8.4.c.	Agencies rely on community partnerships with churches and other organizations in efforts to recruit foster parents and spread awareness on child abuse. These organizations may only assist with one event and would be working alongside of trained and certified staff, they would not be working independently or alone with children and therefore should not be required to complete background checks and medical screenings in comparison to other types of volunteers (such as tutors) who may work more independently or alone would need required background and medical checks. Suggestion for volunteers to be better defined in the rule to clarify this.
9.3.c.2	The current rule regulates that the initial medical exam occur within 72 hours a child being placed, however agencies are often not able to be in compliance with this due to the WV DHHR often failing to provide the required 40, 40A or medical card that the doctor requires to hold the appointment. Suggest this regulation be changed to the appointment being required within 72 hours of the proper documentation being provided.
9.3.c.10.A.	Different workers and licensing specialists may have different interpretations about this rule and agencies are concerned that despite the language of "prescribing a medication" there have been some workers who have considered over the

KVC COMMENT SUBMISSION ON 78-CSR-2

	<p>counter medications to fall under this rule. Suggestion to include that over the counter medications may be dispensed by foster parents through use of prudent parenting standards to clarify this point.</p>
10.2 – 10.5	<p>Agencies do not believe that such specific requirements do not belong in legislative rule and may be better suited in contract agreements. Suggestion for all four of these areas be less prescriptive and only have language that agencies are responsible for having a policy or procedure for completing intakes, written service agreements, intake service plans, and child assessments.</p>
11.4	<p>Discharges are largely out of the hands of agencies and are decided upon by MDT or Court Proceedings and often agencies do not receive notification until the day of, or after, the child has already exited care. Therefore, agencies believe it unreasonable to have these expectations placed upon them and it appears better suited for DHR workers or the MDT.</p>
11.6.A.	<p>Agencies have concerns this language is too restrictive. There are times that emergency discharges have to occur for reasons other than a child's behavior. There may be instances when there are foster parent circumstances or household changes that require emergency moves (in example: house fire, flooding, death in family, etc). Suggestion to make this language less restrictive to allow for other circumstances.</p>
13.2.c.	<p>There may be circumstances after a foster parent certification in which the foster parent's health, behavior, emotional, or psychological make-up may change and they are no longer suitable to continue foster parenting. Agencies would like for this section to include language that allows for the discontinuation or closure of a foster home if these conditions arise.</p>
18.4.a.	<p>This section needs to be written more clearly to identify that that foster parents are required to have 15 hour in their first year of certification and 12 hours each year thereafter.</p>



78CSR2

Title 78 Legislative Rule Requested Modifications

Rule Number	Comments/Suggestions
3.46 and throughout the document	Transitional Living – can the word young adult be utilized as 17-26 yrs of age is not a child. This would be throughout the document.
3.5	Should the age range of transitioning adult be added to this definition as well? 17 to 26.
3.7	Typo – last line 17 TO 26 instead of or
5.1.3	Some of the agencies governing board members are out of state. The request is to add that they can be interviewed via technology if needed.
7.2.4.c	No youth should be staying in the residence of an employee. Not sure if this was meant to reference a residential/group home setting where the housing is used as an ongoing service delivery method? Please remove that or clarify. Scattered Site, transitional living and a few other terms are used in what seems to be an interchangeable way – that should be cleaned up.
8.1 and 8.2	<p>Recommendation that these sections be struck from the regulations. Agencies should have their own written employment standards and practices regarding employee requirements.</p> <p>Should this section remain, agencies recommend that the social work licensure requirement be removed. There is a work force shortage that prevents agencies from easily recruiting, hiring, and maintaining licensed social workers. Positions currently requiring licensure could more easily be filled with workers who have four-year degrees and experience in the human services field and each agency provides specific training for duties in these respective roles. (It is marked through – but we need to ensure it stays that way)</p> <p>Current practice of WV DHHR is to hire workers with ANY four-year degree and place them in these positions and provide them training whereas private agencies are not awarded the same opportunity. The same hiring practices of DHHR should be extended to private agencies.</p>
9.3.3.b.	The current rule regulates that the initial medical exam must occur within 72 hours after a child being placed, however agencies are often not able to be in compliance with this due to the WV DHHR often failing to provide the required 40, 40A or medical card that the doctor requires to hold the appointment. Suggest this regulation be changed to the appointment being required within 72 hours of the proper documentation being provided to agencies/foster parents.
10.2 – 10.5	Agencies do not believe that such specific requirements belong in legislative rule and may be better suited in contract agreements. Suggestion for all four of these areas be less prescriptive and only have language that agencies are responsible for having a

	policy or procedure for completing intakes, written service agreements, intake service plans, and child assessments.
11.2	<p>Discharges are largely out of the hands of agencies and are decided upon by MDT or Court Proceedings and often agencies do not receive notification until the day of, or after, the child has already exited care. Therefore, agencies believe it unreasonable to have these expectations placed upon them and it appears better suited for DHHR workers or the MDT.</p> <p>11.2 Would it be better to classify these as planned and unplanned discharges. 11.3 speaks to emergency discharges...but another category that captures when they are ordered home by judge, etc. with no plan or notice.</p>
13.2.3	There may be circumstances after a foster parent certification in which the foster parent's health, behavior, emotional, or psychological make-up may change, and they are no longer suitable to continue foster parenting. Agencies would like for this section to include language that allows for the discontinuation or closure of a foster home if these conditions arise.
25.5	Does this refer to a roommate who is also in the TL program? Not sure that it would be a good idea to have another person that is not in TL with the young adult that is in care? This would open other needs such as background checks and enforcement of agency rules for the non-committed youth or adult.

CHILD PLACING AGENCIES LICENSURE 78-CSR-02
PUBLIC COMMENTS
JULY 28, 2020
TO: APRIL L. ROBERTSON VIA EMAIL

Please accept the following comments in regards to the Notice of Public Comment Period for the above named Legislative rule Amendments.

~~7.2.4.~~ 7.2.5. A policy that employees applying to be foster or adoptive parents may not be considered for foster or adoptive parenting that employs them.

COMMENT: Missing phrase: not be considered for foster or adoptive parenting by the agency that employs them.

~~8.1.d.~~ 8.1.4. Homefinders shall have:

~~A valid West Virginia Board of Social Work Examiners license.~~

~~8.1.e.~~ Case Managers shall have:

~~8.1.e.1.~~ A a Bachelor's or master's degree in social work or a related human service field, ~~or an advanced degree from a program of social work education or a comparable human service field.~~

~~8.1.e.2.~~ Supervision for case managers ~~not licensed within the scope of their practice shall be provided by a person with an advanced degree in social work or a comparable human service field who has at least two (2) years experience or has an advanced degree in social work or a comparable human service field and is licensed in their field.~~

COMMENT: Children's Home Society believes in the value of requiring the homefinder and the case manager both to have a bachelor's or master's degree in social work or a degree in a related human service field. Rather than reducing the requirements, WV should focus on finding ways to partner with colleges to recruit more professionally trained employees. Homefinders and case managers should be required to have supervision provided by a person with a higher level of experience and licensing.

Suggestion: A Bachelor's or master's degree in social work or a related human service field with supervision provided by a person with an advanced degree in social work or a comparable human service field who has at least two years' experience or has an advanced degree in social work or a comparable human service field and has a valid license issued by the West Virginia Board of Social Work.

CHILD PLACING AGENCIES LICENSURE 78-CSR-02
PUBLIC COMMENTS
JULY 28, 2020
TO: APRIL L. ROBERTSON VIA EMAIL

~~8.4.b.~~ 8.4.2. An agency shall require volunteers who are working directly with youth to provide references, complete a Statement of Criminal Record form, complete background checks in accordance with the provisions of the WV CARES act and rules and complete a Child/Adult Abuse or Neglect History form.

~~8.4.c.~~ 8.4.3. An agency shall require that volunteers who are working directly with youth have a physical examination by a physician, medical screening by a qualified medical practitioner and a tuberculosis risk assessment or test with negative risk assessment or test results within three (3) months of prior to providing services to children and once a year thereafter every five years thereafter.

COMMENT: Many agencies utilize volunteers in group settings for limited individual activities. For example, community volunteers putting on a holiday party or holding a picnic for foster children. As long as these volunteers are supervised by agency staff, they should be exempt from the requirements for the type of volunteers described above.

Suggested wording to add to 8.4.2 and 8.4.3: Volunteers for individual events and activities directly supervised by agency staff are exempt from these requirements.

18.4. An agency shall complete an annual safety assessment for each foster or adoptive parent that includes:

18.4.1. Documentation of 12 hours of in-service trainings completed;

COMMENT: Suggested Wording: Documentation of 15 hours in the first year and 12 hours in subsequent years of in-service training completed;

Submitted on Behalf of Children's Home Society of WV by:
Julia A. Kesler, MA, LSW
Director of Permanency Services
Foster Care and Adoption
Children's Home Society of West Virginia
1422 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25301
Phone: 304.988.5416
Email: JKesler@childhswv.org

78CSR2 - Child Placing Agencies Licensure July 2020
 Provider Response to Written Public Comment Period
 Rule # and Ranking of Urgency Comment Table

Priority	Rule Reference #	Current Rule Language	Proposed Rule Changes	Comments
Urgent	3.16	<u>3.16.</u> Foster Family Home. -- A private residence <u>that is used for the care on a residential care basis of no more than six five (5) or less children who are unrelated by blood, marriage or adoption to any adult member of the household.</u>	<u>3.16.</u> Foster Family Home. -- A private residence <u>that is used for the care on a residential care basis of no more than six five (5) or less children who are unrelated by blood, marriage or adoption to any adult member of the household.</u> <i>out-of-home care of children.</i>	as written could allow 10-12 in a home
Urgent	3.22	<u>3.22.</u> Intake Service Plan. -- A plan developed when the child initially enters placement to ensure that the child receives appropriate care while in placement. If the child is in the Department's custody, and if a Safety Plan or a Child's Case Plan exists, they must be incorporated in the Intake Service Plan.	<u>3.22.</u> Intake Service Plan. -- A plan developed when the child initially enters placement to ensure that the child receives appropriate care while in placement. If the child is in the Department's custody, and if a Safety Plan or a Child's Case Plan exists, they must be incorporated in the Intake Service Plan. Initial Plan of Care- Initial Plan of care is developed in the first 7 days of intake, if the child is in the Department's custody, and if a Safety or a Child's Case Plan exists and is provided to the provider, they	proposed provider change eliminates need for interpretation - DHHR staff change periodically

			must be incorporated in the Initial Plan of Care.	
Urgent	Old 3.15 new 3.14	<u>3.14. Discharge.</u> - - The termination of a child's affiliation with an agency.	<u>3.14. Discharge.</u> - - The termination of a child's affiliation services with an agency.	proposed provider change eliminates need for interpretation - DHHR staff change periodically
Urgent	Old 4.1.d New 4.1.4	When the ownership of an agency changes, the new owner shall apply for a license and shall not operate until a provisional license is issued.	Omit entirely	while an application process is certainly reasonable, timeframes to get documents back from the Secretary of State's office, etc. could force unnecessary closure & children to be removed vs allowing services to not be disrupted.
Urgent	6.6.1			DHHR has to provide information for providers to comply. It is inappropriate to hold providers accountable or require additional efforts when DHHR does not fulfill their responsibility.
Urgent	old -6.6.a.2 new- 6.6.1.b	An itemized list of the documents in the record that are required to be maintained by this rule, and the date that each document was received and completed;	Omit entirely	The intent of the rule is to have the documents. This implies providers will be out of compliance without using this required lists as a tracking method versus simply a Table of Content List.
Urgent	old - 6.6.a.4 new -6.6.1.d	The name, address, telephone number and marital status of the child's biological parents or guardian;		DHHR has to provide information for providers to comply. It is inappropriate to hold providers accountable or require additional efforts when DHHR does not fulfill their responsibility.
Urgent	old - 6.7.b.5. new <u>6.7.1.e.</u>		Submitting of a written Writing a report of the emergency or incident to the director per the agency's policy within forty-eight (48) hours of the date of the emergency or incident, that	use change indicated "per agency policy" (Reads as the recommendation to a policy & procedure is open to mandating from the DHHR as to the "how" and "what" is overreaching DHHR role.

includes a complete description of the emergency or incident, the date and time it occurred, names of the individuals involved, precipitating factors, ~~statements of witnesses,~~ immediate actions taken by employees or other persons and other relevant information concerning the incident;

Urgent

Old -7.1.a
New- 7.1.1

An agency shall develop and implement a staffing plan to provide for the effective implementation of its services and programs that includes for each service position in the agency, a job description detailing the responsibilities, qualifications, and ~~supervisory chain of command for each position in the agency~~ title of direct supervisor.

An agency shall develop and implement a ~~staffing plan to provide for the effective implementation of its services and programs that includes for each service position in the agency,~~ a job description ~~for each position~~ detailing the responsibilities, qualifications, and ~~supervisory chain of command for each position in the agency~~ title of direct supervisor.

If language changes are not accepted; please change "each position" to "direct care and supervisor positions". As currently stated, we need staffing patterns for staff in clerical, IT, finance, etc.)

Urgent

Old- 8.1.e.1
New- 8.1.4

~~a Bachelor's or master's degree in social work or a related human service field, or an advanced degree from a program of social work education or a~~

Needs to include "Board of Regents" degree due to extreme lack of WV workforce.

		comparable human-service field		
Urgent	Old 8.2.a, 8.2.d.1 New 8.2.1, 8.2.2.a	Topics of training; required hours		Topics list and quality are more important than stretching time to arbitrarily meet hours required. Remove hours required to assure quality of training occurred.
Urgent	Old 9.3.c.1 New <u>9.3.3.a.</u>	Sander's Consent Decree		If required to follow Sander's Consent Decree, DHHR is requested to define this and provide a copy to providers.
Urgent	10.4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11 Old 11.4 New 11.2	Omit all and replace An agency shall ensure that the planning team develops an aftercare plan not less than three (3) months prior to the planned discharge of a child that includes:	See new Service Plan language submitted in rule comments document Omit section	Although Child Placing Agencies complete a discharge plan from the beginning, this information is rarely known by the Child Placing Agency; therefore this cannot be completed. This responsibility should lie with the WV DHHR worker and the MDT.
Urgent	Old 11.6.d, 11.6.e New 11.4.4, 11.4.5	11.6.d. 11.4.4. If the agency arranges for an emergency placement, the placing worker and the primary case manager shall be consulted in determining which program placement best meets the child's needs; 11.6.e. 11.4.5. The child shall be accompanied by a designated agency employee to the receiving agency or individual; and	11.6.d. 11.4.4. If the agency arranges for an emergency placement, the placing worker and the primary case manager shall be consulted in determining which program placement best meets the child's needs; 11.6.e. 11.4.5. The child shall be accompanied by a designated agency employee to the receiving agency or individual; and	Note: If emergency placement is arranged outside of the agency, this is the WVDHHR responsibility. Agency staff have no legal authority to do so.

	Old 13.2.b. New 13.2.2.	13.2.b. <u>13.2.2.</u> The agency, the Licensing Director or the Director of the Institutional Investigative Unit may require additional examinations, mental health assessments, or drug screens for indications that the safety or well-being of a child in care may be jeopardized by the physical and mental health of a household member.	Omit entirely	This cannot legally be required by the agency.
Urgent	Old 13.6.c New 13.6.3	13.6.c. <u>13.6.3.</u> An agency shall not approve a home for foster care or adoption in which a household member has any convictions other than minor traffic violations. Special circumstances may allow a waiver to be granted by the Secretary. <u>A childcare provider for a foster or adoptive family shall meet the same criteria for background checks and protective service record checks as the foster or adoptive parent or be a licensed childcare provider.</u>	Omit entirely.	<i>This does not comply with Normalcy and Prudent Parent standards. This does not allow for a youth to go to a friend's home, have an overnight visit with a friend, a babysitter to watch a child while a parent runs to the store.</i>

TITLE 78
LEGISLATIVE RULE
(Technical Changes Only as allowed by W. Va. Code §29A-1-3a)
~~DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES~~
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

SERIES 2
CHILD PLACING AGENCIES LICENSURE

§78-2-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- This rule establishes minimum standards and procedures for the licensure of child placing agencies under the provisions of W. Va. Code, Chapter 49, Article 2 (Part I), and related federal and state codes. The W. Va. Code is available in public libraries and on the Legislature's web page, <http://www.wvlegislature.gov/>.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §49-2-121.

1.3. Filing Date. -- ~~June 25, 2015.~~

1.4. Effective Date. -- ~~July 1, 2007.~~

1.5. Sunset Provision. This rule shall terminate and have no further force or effect upon the expiration of five years from its effective date.

§78-2-2. Application and Enforcement.

2.1. Application. -- This rule applies to agencies that place children in temporary living arrangements.

2.2. Enforcement. -- This rule is enforced by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources.

§78-2-3. Definitions.

3.1. Aftercare. -- Services to be provided ~~or recommended~~ subsequent to a child's ~~or young adult's~~ discharge from placement as identified in the discharge plan.

3.2. Agency. -- A child placing agency.

3.3. Case Record. -- A comprehensive collection of information about a child in the care of a child placing agency.

3.4. Certificate of License. -- A written certificate issued by the Secretary authorizing ~~a person an~~ individual, corporation, partnership, voluntary association, municipality, county or an agency thereof, to provide specified child placing services for a limited period of time in accordance with the terms and conditions of the certificate and this rule.

3.5. Child. -- A person less than ~~eighteen (18)~~ eighteen (18) years of age or is a transitioning adult.

~~3.6. Child Abuse and Neglect. -- Physical injury, mental or emotional injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, the sale or the attempted sale or negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by a parent, guardian or custodian who is responsible for the child's welfare, under circumstances which harm or threaten the health and welfare of the child. Any act or omission that creates an abused child or a neglected child as those terms are defined in W. Va. Code §49-1-201.~~

~~3.7. Child Placing Agency. -- A child welfare agency organized for the purpose of placing children in private family homes for foster care or for adoption. The function of a child placing agency may include the assessment and certification of foster family homes as provided in W. Va. Code §49-1-101, et seq. The function of a child placing agency may also include the supervision and support of youth or transitioning adults who are 17 ~~to~~ 26 years old and living in unlicensed residences.~~

3.8. Child's Case Plan. -- A comprehensive document prepared by the Department pursuant to the requirements of W. Va. State Code §49-4-604 following an adjudication by the court that the child is an abused ~~and/or~~ or neglected, or both, child, that directs the provision of all casework services including the services provided to the child.

3.9. Child-specific training. -- Training provided to respond to the ~~specialized~~ individualized needs of a child.

~~3.10. Community re-entry program. -- A specialized group setting which provides twenty-four (24) hour supervision administered by the agency, developed for children targeted to return to their community.~~

~~3.11. Criminal Identification Bureau Record (CIB). -- A fingerprinting process that identifies a person who has been arrested or convicted of criminal behavior. Criminal History Background Check -- A review of information pursuant to the provisions of the West Virginia Clearance for Access: Registry and Employment Screening Act (WV CARES), W. Va. Code §16-49-1, et seq., and 69 CSR 10, and an examination of protective service records to determine eligibility for employment or participation under this rule.~~

~~3.12.~~ 3.11. Crisis Intervention Skills and Techniques. -- Methods used to de-escalate situations that could result in harm to persons or property.

~~3.13.~~ 3.12. Crisis Support. -- The use of crisis intervention skills and techniques.

~~3.14.~~ 3.13. Department. -- The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.

~~3.15.~~ 3.14. Discharge. -- The termination of a child's ~~affiliation~~ services with an agency.

~~3.16. Discipline. -- A system of rules governing conduct that usually prescribes consequences for the violation of rules.~~

~~3.17.~~ 3.15. Disruption. -- ~~An event~~ A change that results in the decision that an adoptive or foster care placement will not continue.

~~3.18.~~ 3.16. Foster Family Home. -- A private residence that is used for the care on a residential-care basis of no more than six five (5) or less children who are unrelated by blood, marriage or adoption to any adult member of the household. ~~out-of-home care of children.~~

~~3.19.~~ 3.17. Goal. -- An expected result or condition that takes time to achieve, is specified in a statement of relatively broad scope, and provides guidance in establishing intermediate objectives directed toward its attainment.

~~3.20.~~ 3.18. Guardian. -- A person or persons, the Department, or the Division of Juvenile Services, who has legal custody of a child, as a result of any contract, agreement, or legal proceedings.

~~3.21.~~ 3.19. Governing Board. -- The group of persons that has the administrative control and legal authority to set policy and oversee operations of an agency.

~~3.22.~~ 3.20. Incident. -- An act, or series of acts which violates reasonable expectations or behavior behaviors, that ~~and has the potential to~~ place a child or others at risk.

~~3.23.~~ 3.21. Institutional Investigative Unit. -- A unit of the Department authorized by the Secretary to investigate complaints of child abuse or neglect in an agency.

~~3.24.~~ 3.22. Intake Service Plan. -- A plan developed when the child initially enters placement to ensure that the child receives appropriate care while in placement. If the child is in the Department's custody, and if a Safety Plan or a Child's Case Plan exists, they must be incorporated in the Intake Service Plan. Initial Plan of Care- Initial Plan of care is developed in the first 7 days of intake, if the child is in the Department's custody, and if a Safety or a Child's Case Plan exists and is provided to the provider, they must be incorporated in the Initial Plan of Care.

~~3.25.~~ 3.23. Life Skills. -- Tasks, abilities, or knowledge required to perform the activities of daily living.

~~3.26.~~ Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT). -- A group of representatives from disciplines including medical, child care, law enforcement, social work, psychology and psychiatry who together identify and treat cases of child abuse and neglect with continuity and follow-up for parents and children.

~~3.27.~~ 3.24. Multi-Disciplinary Multidisciplinary Treatment Team or Multidisciplinary Team (MDT). -- A treatment team that includes the child's custodial parent or guardian, other immediate family members, the attorney representing the parent of the child, the child if he or she is over the age of twelve (12) or the child's participation is considered appropriate, the guardian ad litem, the prosecuting attorney, and any other person who may contribute to the team's efforts to assist the family, the individuals listed in W. Va. Code §49-4-405(b) or 49-4-406(d)(2), as the case may be, who assess, plan, and implement a comprehensive, individualized service plan for the child.

~~3.25.~~ Normalcy. -- A practice of allowing children and youth in out-of-home care to experience childhood and adolescence in ways similar to their peers who are not in foster care.

~~3.28.~~ 3.26. Objective. -- An expected result or outcome that is stated in measurable terms, has a specified time for achievement, and is related to the attainment of a goal.

~~3.29.~~ Passive physical restraint. -- A recognized behavior control method that requires the least amount of direct physical contact to prevent a child from harming himself, herself or others.

~~3.30.~~ 3.27. Placement. -- A change of living arrangement, or the ongoing care of a child in an adoptive or Any temporary or permanent living arrangement of a child who is in the custody of the state in any foster home, group facility, or other approved living situation setting.

~~3.31.~~ 3.28. Placement Agreement. -- A written document signed by the child's parent or guardian and a representative of the agency, that specifies the terms of the child's placement.

~~3.32.~~ 3.29. Plan of Correction. -- A written agreement between the Department and an agency, ~~approved prior to implementation,~~ that outlines the steps an agency shall take to correct deficiencies identified by the Department through an inspection or the investigation of a complaint.

~~3.33.~~ 3.30. Policy. -- A statement of the principles that guide and govern the activities, ~~procedures and operations of a program.~~ This term is interchangeable with "procedure" depending on the organization of the agency.

~~3.34.~~ 3.31. Procedures. -- The methods by which a policy is carried out.

~~3.35.~~ 3.32. Program. -- A system of services provided to those persons who use the agency.

~~3.36.~~ 3.33. Psychotropic Medication. -- ~~Drugs that affect the mind, mood, behavior, or other mental processes.~~ Any drug that affects brain activities associated with mental processes and behaviors.

3.34. Reasonable and prudent parent standard. -- The standard characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that are reasonably intended to 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 a caregiver shall use when determining whether to allow a child in foster care under the responsibility of the state to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities.

~~3.37.~~ 3.35. Respite Care. -- Alternative short term care.

~~3.38.~~ 3.36. Restraint. -- Restriction of a child's freedom of movement as a means of ~~behavior control~~ to avoid imminent harm.

~~3.39.~~ 3.37. Rules. -- A set of requirements issued by the Secretary to regulate child placing agencies.

3.38. Scattered-Site Living Arrangement. -- A living arrangement where youth, age 17 to 26, live in a setting that allows staff to be available as needed depending on the youth's level of autonomy. Sites are in community environments to allow the youth full access to services and resources in order to fully develop independent living skills.

~~3.40.~~ 3.39. Secretary. -- The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources or his or her designee.

3.40. Self-disclosure Application and Consent Form. -- A signed declaration of criminal convictions, indictments, and court ordered supervision and authorization to allow a criminal history background check as required by the WV CARES process.

~~3.41.~~ 3.41. Service Plan. -- A comprehensive, time limited, goal oriented, individualized plan based on a thorough evaluation of the child's needs that describes the services, ~~program, treatment interventions~~ and educational needs of a child in care, incorporating any Child's Case Plan or Safety Plan developed through the MDT process.

~~3.42.~~ 3.42. Statement of Child/Adult Abuse or Neglect History Form. -- A document signed by a ~~prospective employee or prospective foster or adoptive parent~~ granting permission to conduct a search

of Department records related to his or her involvement in adult or child abuse or neglect allegations or findings, or other investigations documented by the Department.

~~3.43. Supervised Group Setting. – A setting where youth 17 to 21 live with staff on site or are available 24 hours per day and 7 days per week. In this setting staff provide face-to-face daily contact with youth.~~

~~3.43. 3.44. Statement of Criminal Record. – A signed declaration by a prospective employee or prospective foster or adoptive parent of his or her arrests or convictions. Trafficking. – Knowingly recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring, receiving, providing, obtaining, isolating, maintaining or enticing an individual to engage in debt bondage, forced labor or sexual servitude. For minors, sexual servitude means maintaining or making a minor available for the purpose of engaging the minor in commercial sexual activity. Children can be sexually exploited through prostitution, pornography, or erotic entertainment.~~

~~3.44. 3.45. Transitioning Adult. – An individual with a transfer plan to move to an adult setting who meets one of the following conditions: (a) is 18 years of age but under 26 years of age, was in the custody of the Department upon reaching 18 years of age and committed an act of delinquency before reaching 18 years of age, remains under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, and requires supervision and care to complete an education and or treatment program that was initiated prior to the 18th birthday, or (b) is 18 years of age under 26 years of age, was adjudicated abused, neglected, or in the custody of the Department to continue in an educational, training, or treatment program that was initiated prior to the eighteenth birthday.~~

**Additional language needed to include 18-21 years of age living in a foster care home. Example: 18 year old adult living in a foster home must obtain criminal background checks and may attend college.*

~~3.45. 3.46. Transitional Living Scattered Site Apartments. – Placement arrangements for children or young adults in Transitional Living in apartments that are single-unit dwellings located throughout a community. Transitional Living. – A supervised living arrangement developed to assist children or young adults older teens or Transitioning Adults in the custody of the Department in acquiring skills and competencies to become independent.~~

~~3.46. Transitional Living Training Center-Based Apartments. – Placement arrangements for children or young adults in Transitional Living, in an apartment complex with multi-unit apartments, one of which serves as staff quarters, and that are co-located with educationally-based programs.~~

3.47. Universal Precautions -- A collection of medically related behaviors, procedures, and protocols designed to minimize the risk of disease transmission and contamination.

3.48. Variance. -- A written declaration by the Secretary that a certain requirement of this rule may be satisfied in a manner different from the manner set forth in the rule.

3.49. Waiver. -- A written declaration by the Secretary that a certain requirement may be treated as inapplicable in a particular circumstance.

~~3.50. Young Adult. – A person not less than eighteen (18) years of age and not more than twenty-one (21) years of age.~~

§78-2-4. Licensing Information and Provisions.

4.1. Child Placing Licensing Requirements.

~~4.1.a.~~ 4.1.1. Before establishing or operating a Child Placing Agency or accepting children for placement in the State of West Virginia, an agency, other than one operated by the state, shall obtain a license from the Secretary.

~~4.1.b.~~ 4.1.2. A regular license is valid for up to two ~~(2)~~ years from the date of issuance, unless revoked or modified to provisional status.

~~4.1.c.~~ 4.1.3. ~~A license is valid only for the agency named in the application and is not transferable.~~

~~4.1.d.~~ 4.1.4. ~~When the ownership of an agency changes, the new owner shall apply for a license and shall not operate until a provisional license is issued.~~ This implies during a merger, all children will be forced to be removed from the merging agency/agencies existing foster homes. Certified homes would no longer be certified or valid providers meaning no children could remain in those homes, and would need alternate placement immediately. No transition services could be provided as the agency would not be recognized as a child placing agency at the time of merger. This will cause not only a disruption for children in placement and additional trauma for the children but an overall shortage in foster care and an undue burden on families.

~~4.1.e.~~ 4.1.5. An agency shall post the license in a conspicuous place at its principal place of business.

4.2. Application Procedures for a License.

~~4.2.a.~~ 4.2.1. To apply for an initial license, an agency shall submit a completed application obtained from the Department and the following additional written information:

~~4.2.a.1.~~ 4.2.1.a. Documentation of the legal authority authorizing the organization of the agency;

~~4.2.a.2.~~ 4.2.1.b. A list of the members of the governing board and employees of the agency;

~~4.2.a.3.~~ 4.2.1.c. The agency's mission statement;

~~4.2.a.4.~~ 4.2.1.d. The agency's description of the expectation for the biological families involvement in supporting the health and welfare of their children;

~~4.2.a.5.~~ 4.2.1.e. An operating budget for the first fiscal year of operation and documentation of funds in escrow or a credit line equal to the operating budget projected for a six~~(6)~~-month period;

~~4.2.a.6.~~ 4.2.1.f. A statement from an independent certified public accountant (CPA) that proper accounting procedures, including an annual audit from a CPA, are in place for the agency;

*New agency will not have an annual audit.

~~4.2.a.7.~~ 4.2.1.g. Proof of liability and fire insurance;

~~4.2.a.8.~~ 4.2.1.h. A copy of the agency's administrative manual; *What is this?

~~4.1.a.1.~~ 4.2.a.9. 4.2.1.i. The packet of forms that will be used to compile complete case records for children, foster or adoptive parents, and employees of the agency;

*This could now be electronic file not a paper file.

- ~~4.2.a.10.~~ 4.2.1.j. The orientation training curriculum for foster and adoptive parents;
- ~~4.2.a.11.~~ 4.2.1.k. The agency's employment policies, including detailed job descriptions and the hiring plan;
- ~~4.2.a.12.~~ 4.2.1.l. A plan for the training, supervision, and evaluation of employees of the agency;
- ~~4.2.a.13.~~ 4.2.1.m. Information on current agency employees; and
- ~~4.2.a.14.~~ 4.2.1.n. The fee or reimbursement schedule and procedures for payment of fees or reimbursements to foster and adoptive parents.

~~4.2.b.~~ 4.2.2. The agency is subject to ~~an investigation~~ a review process that includes but is not limited to:

**Note: Not clear why this section is needed as any item in series 2 is reviewable.*

~~4.2.b.1.~~ 4.2.2.a. Evaluation of the quality of the program, the proposed services, and the agency's ability to carry them out effectively in the best interest of the children to be served;

~~4.2.b.2.~~ 4.2.2.b. Complete background information on the applicant and the principal owners, including a financial statement and character references; **Note: non-profit agencies do not have principle owners.*

~~4.2.b.3.~~ 4.2.2.c. A ~~criminal investigation bureau report~~ "Fitness Determination" pursuant to the provisions of WV CARES for each applicant, owner and employee of the agency; and

~~4.2.b.4.~~ 4.2.2.d. A tuberculosis risk assessment for direct service employees prior to initial assignment.

4.3. Types of Licenses

~~4.3.a.~~ Following application review, on-site inspection and an approved plan of correction, if necessary, the Secretary shall issue a license in one of three categories: initial license, provisional license and renewal license. If there is compliance with this rule and W. Va. Code §49-2-115.

~~4.3.b.~~ An ~~initial license shall be issued to agencies establishing a new service found to be in compliance with regard to policy, procedure, organization and record keeping rules. It expires not more than six (6) months from date of issuance and may not be re-issued.~~

~~4.3.c.~~ A ~~provisional license shall be issued when an agency seeks a renewal license and is not in compliance with this rule, but does not pose a significant risk to the rights, well-being, health and safety of a child. It expires not more than six (6) months from date of issuance and may not be consecutively reissued unless the provisional recommendation is that of the State Fire Marshal.~~

~~4.3.d.~~ A ~~regular license shall be issued for up to two years, when an agency is in compliance with this rule.~~

~~4.4. Amendment of a License. When implementing a new service or changing a program, an agency shall submit to the Department an application for a proposed amendment to the license. Any license issued may be amended under the following conditions: program changes, implementing a new service, address change, change in ownership. (Wording originally indicated would eliminate the ability to pilot new program models or additional service pilots).~~

4.5. Renewal of a License. An agency shall submit a renewal license application form to the Secretary not less than ~~sixty (60)~~ days prior to the expiration of the current license, and any additional information requested, ~~to show continuing compliance with the provisions of W. Va. Code §49-2-113 et seq. and this rule.~~

4.6. Revocation of a License.

~~4.6.a.~~ 4.6.1. The Secretary may revoke an agency's license based on failure to maintain compliance with the provisions of W. Va. Code §49-2-117 *et seq.*, the requirements of this rule, the terms and conditions of its license and any plan of correction.

~~4.6.b.~~ 4.6.2. When the Secretary determines that an agency's operation constitutes a risk of harm to a child placed by that agency, he or she shall issue an order of closure terminating operation of the agency.

~~4.6.c.~~ 4.6.3. When the Secretary has revoked its license, an agency shall not operate pending administrative or judicial review, or without a court order.

~~4.6.d.~~ 4.6.4. When a license is revoked by the Secretary, he or she shall immediately direct the placement of children in the care of that agency into alternative care.

4.7. Transitioning Adults.

An agency may serve children, including transitioning adults, as defined in W. Va. Code §49-1-202.

§78-2-5. Inspections, Complaints, Plans of Correction and Waivers.

5.1. Inspections.

~~5.1.a.~~ 5.1.1. An agency shall permit the Secretary unrestricted access to the agency to conduct announced and unannounced inspections of all aspects of its operation and premises.

~~5.1.b.~~ 5.1.2. An agency shall permit review of an agency's case records, corporate and financial records, board minutes and employment files as desired by the Secretary during an inspection.

~~5.1.c.~~ 5.1.3. An agency shall permit access to agency employees, members of the governing board, foster or adoptive parents, and consumers receiving services from the agency as desired by the Secretary during an inspection within three business days of such request.

5.2. Investigation of Complaints.

~~5.2.a.~~ 5.2.1. An agency shall provide all information requested by the Secretary and the Institutional Investigative Unit in the investigation of a complaint.

~~5.2.b.~~ 5.2.2. An agency shall limit internal assessment of an incident to ~~ensuring~~ ensure the safety of the children in placement without compromising the Department's subsequent investigation.

~~5.2.c.~~ 5.2.3. For any complaint against an employee alleging sexual abuse or serious physical injury to a child in placement ~~by the employee~~, an agency shall remove the employee and discontinue the employee's contact with the foster children until an investigation is completed and a determination is made.

~~5.2.d.~~ 5.2.4. For any complaint against a foster or adoptive parent alleging sexual abuse or physical injury to a child in placement by the foster or adoptive parent, an agency shall require immediate removal of the foster or adoptive children in that home to other appropriate care, and the agency shall ensure that the foster or adoptive parents discontinue contact with the children until an investigation is completed and a determination is made.

5.3. Plan of Correction.

~~5.3.a.~~ 5.3.1. After a complaint investigation, the Secretary may require an agency to submit a plan of correction ~~within thirty (30) days of the date of~~ after the receipt of the written summary of the investigation. Depending on the nature of the investigation, the Secretary may require the plan of correction to be submitted as he or she deems appropriate, within a designated timeline not to exceed including immediately, but no more than 30 days.

~~5.3.b.~~ 5.3.2. ~~An agency shall not implement a proposed plan of correction prior to approval by the Secretary.~~

~~5.3.c.~~ Within ~~ten (10)~~ days of notification of the Secretary's approval of a plan of correction, an agency shall implement the plan, unless the approved plan specifies a different date for implementation.

~~5.3.d.~~ 5.3.3. When the Secretary ~~does not approve~~ provides notification that a proposed plan of correction is not approved, an agency shall submit another plan of correction within ~~7 (seven)~~ working days of the notification.

5.4. Waivers and Variances.

~~5.4.a.~~ 5.4.1. An agency shall comply with ~~the provisions of West Virginia Code 540-2-122 et seq., the requirements of this rule, terms of its licensure and any plan of correction,~~ all relevant requirements within in this rule unless a written waiver or variance for a specific requirement has been granted by the Secretary through a written agreement. An agency may not obtain a waiver of the requirements of this rule on the basis of the inability to achieve compliance with the rule.

~~5.4.b.~~ 5.4.2. An agency's written request for a waiver or variance from the Secretary shall include:

~~5.4.b.1.~~ 5.4.2.a. The specific requirement of this rule requested to be waived or varied; and

~~5.4.b.2.~~ 5.4.2.b. The reason or reasons for seeking a waiver or variance.

~~5.4.c.~~ 5.4.3. A waiver or variance of a specific provision of this rule may be granted by the Secretary only if the following criteria are met:

~~5.4.e.1.~~ 5.4.3.a. The agency has documented and demonstrated that the provision of the rule is inapplicable in a particular circumstance, or that the agency complies with the intent of the provision in the rule in a manner not permitted by the rule;

~~5.4.e.2.~~ 5.4.3.b. The health, safety, and well-being of a child is not endangered; and

~~5.4.e.3.~~ 5.4.3.c. The waiver or variance agreement contains provisions for a regular review of the waiver or variance.

~~5.4.d.~~ 5.4.4. The waiver or variance agreement is subject to immediate cancellation if an agency fails to comply with the stated terms of ~~this rule.~~ the issued waiver or variance agreement.

§78-2-6. Governance.

6.1. Administrative Manual Policies.

~~6.1.a.~~ 6.1.1. An agency's ~~agency shall develop and maintain policies and a detailed plan of operations procedures, including the dates of implementation, shall be written in an administrative manual that is and make them available to employees.~~

~~6.1.b.~~ 6.1.2. An agency shall operate in accordance with its policies and ~~plan of operations contained in the administrative manual procedures.~~

~~6.1.c.~~ 6.1.3. ~~Prior to applying for license renewal, an agency shall review the administrative manual to ensure continued compliance with this rule.~~

~~6.1.d.~~ 6.1.4. ~~An agency shall allow employees the opportunity to participate in the administrative manual review.~~

6.2. Legal Operating Authority.

~~6.2.a.~~ 6.2.1. An agency shall establish proof of the legal authority for the operation of the agency by proof of a certificate of ~~association existence or incorporation authorization~~ issued by the West Virginia Secretary of State confirming that an agency is organized to do business in the state and is in good standing.

~~6.2.b.~~ 6.2.2. An agency shall retain its charter, bylaws, partnership agreement, articles of association or incorporation or other documentation at its principal place of business available for inspection, including complete information about the owners, and a list of the names, addresses, phone numbers, and terms of office for the officers and governing board.

6.3. Governing Board.

~~6.3.a.~~ 6.3.1. An agency shall establish a governing board or other supervisory structure whose responsibilities include:

~~6.3.a.1.~~ 6.3.1.a. ~~Setting Approving policy, defining and overseeing services,~~ and being legally accountable for the operation of an agency; Note: Not all boards are operation but may be strategic boards who would not be responsible or qualified to define and oversee services instead charging a CEO or a designated person responsible for this duty.

~~6.3.a.2.~~ 6.3.1.b. Implementing Approve a mission statement of purpose that sets forth an agency's goals and objectives, and defines the services and programs to be offered to meet the goals and objectives;

~~6.3.a.3.~~ 6.3.1.c. Developing Approving the policies and procedures relating to the operation of its services and programs and compliance with W. Va. Code §49-2-101, et seq., and this rule; and Note: Not appropriate for Boards to set procedures.

~~6.3.a.4.~~ Overseeing procedures to maintain and ensure compliance with the provisions of W. Va. Code Chapter 49, Article 2, the requirements of this rule, and the terms of a license or plan of correction.

~~6.3.b.~~ 6.3.2. The governing board shall meet at least quarterly a minimum of twice per year and keep a permanent written record of the minutes of all meetings of the board and its committees.

~~6.3.c.~~ 6.3.3. The governing board agency shall appoint a full-time executive director or similar administrative position to manage the daily operations of an agency.

~~6.3.d.~~ 6.3.4. When ~~changing an executive director,~~ The governing board agency shall notify the Secretary in writing of a change in the executive director position.

~~6.3.e.~~ 6.3.5. ~~The governing board shall conduct an annual evaluation of the executive director and direct any necessary disciplinary actions regarding his or her job performance.~~

~~6.3.f.~~ 6.3.6. An agency shall not permit an employee, member of an employee's family, or an employee of a public agency that regulates, purchases the services of, or is responsible for placement decisions, to serve on the governing board of the agency.

6.4. Standards of Ethical Conduct.

~~6.4.a.~~ An agency shall develop, and implement, and maintain written standards of ethical conduct for its governing board and its employees.

~~6.4.b.~~ ~~An agency shall not misrepresent or operate a service or program in any way that is misleading, deceptive or illegal.~~

6.5. Confidentiality.

~~6.5.a.~~ 6.5.1. Anyone who obtains confidential information while implementing W. Va. Code Chapter 49, Article 2 (Part 1) W. Va. Code §49-2-101, et seq., may disclose it only to persons demonstrating a need that is essential to this rule or as required by law.

~~6.5.b.~~ 6.5.2. An agency shall maintain the confidentiality of all records in accordance with the provisions of W. Va. Code §49-5-101 and other applicable laws.

~~6.5.c.~~ 6.5.3. An agency that maintains records ~~on computer disks or by other~~ electronic storage means shall secure them against loss, tampering, or unauthorized use in accordance with the provisions of W. Va. Code §61-3C-1 et seq.

~~6.5.d.~~ 6.5.4. An agency shall ~~include in the administrative manual, the policy~~ maintain policies and procedures for the disclosure, maintenance and security of its records.

~~6.5.e.~~ 6.5.5. An agency shall provide specific training for employees, foster parents, and adoptive parents on policy and procedures for confidentiality and information disclosure.

~~6.5.f.~~ 6.5.6. An agency shall obtain the written consent of the child's biological parents or guardian before a child may participate in a publicity event for the agency.

~~6.5.g.~~ 6.5.7. An agency shall use any photographs, audio or video recordings, or statements of a child in placement only in a manner that respects and promotes the best interests of the child and with permission of the child's biological parent or guardian.

~~6.5.h.~~ 6.5.8. An agency shall secure records against loss, tampering, or unauthorized use by maintaining records in an appropriate storage space and by establishing a ~~protocol~~ procedure for restricting access to records to authorized employees.

~~6.5.i.~~ 6.5.9. An agency shall delete an individual's name and other identifying information when its disclosure may violate the right of privacy.

~~6.5.j.~~ 6.5.10. An agency shall delete an individual's name and other identifying information when using it for educational or research purposes.

~~6.5.k.~~ 6.5.11. When an agency ceases operation, it shall develop and implement a procedure for the secure storage or disposition of all of its records.

6.6. Records. An agency shall maintain accurate records for the following:

~~6.6.a.~~ 6.6.1. Children in Placement. Each child's ~~or young adult's~~ record shall include, ~~if known or~~ if provided:

~~6.6.a.1.~~ 6.6.1.a. The child's name, social security number, ~~sex~~ gender, race, biological family's religious preference, if any, and birth date ~~and birthplace~~;

~~6.6.a.2.~~ 6.6.1.b. ~~An itemized list of the documents in the record that are required to be maintained by this rule, and the date that each document was received and completed;~~

~~6.6.a.3.~~ 6.6.1.c. A current photograph that is to be updated annually;

~~6.6.a.4.~~ 6.6.1.d. The name, address, telephone number and marital status of the child's biological parents or guardian;

~~6.6.a.5.~~ 6.6.1.e. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the foster or adoptive parents where the child is placed, including the dates of placement and removal;

~~6.6.a.6.~~ 6.6.1.f. The date of placement, name, address and telephone number of the referring agency, and the name of the placing worker and his or her supervisor, ~~and an emergency contact's name and telephone number;~~

~~6.6.a.7. 6.6.1.g.~~ The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the medical and other professional persons directly involved in providing ongoing care for the child;

~~6.6.a.8. 6.6.1.h.~~ Information about the child's allergies, medical conditions or current prescribed medications;

~~6.6.a.9. 6.6.1.i.~~ The name, address and telephone number of the child's school, the name of the primary teacher or other school contact person, or the name, address and telephone number of the child's employer;

~~6.6.a.10. 6.6.1.j.~~ Information from the placing worker who referred the child to an agency, including:

~~6.6.a.10.A. The family assessment and social summary;~~

~~6.6.a.10.B. The child's current legal custody status;~~

~~6.6.a.10.C. A list of prior placements with dates and summaries of the discharges;~~

~~6.6.a.10.D. A copy of the child's birth certificate or other verification of a birth date;~~

~~6.6.a.10.E. Complete education, progress and health records; and~~

6.6.a.11. The placement agreement;

~~6.6.a.12. 6.6.1.k.~~ Consent forms signed by the biological parents or guardian authorizing the agency to provide all necessary services and care; and

~~6.6.a.13. 6.6.1.l.~~ An individualized strength based assessment that includes all service and treatment plans, casework activities, counseling reports, special incident reports and an aftercare plan.

~~6.6.b. 6.6.2.~~ Foster and Adoptive Parents. Each record for foster or adoptive parents shall include:

~~6.6.b.1. 6.6.2.a.~~ An itemized list of the documents required to be maintained by this rule, and the date that each document was received and completed;

~~6.6.b.2. 6.6.2.b.~~ The names, birth dates, social security numbers and schools or work places for each household member, and the social security numbers of the household members over age 18;

~~6.6.b.3. 6.6.2.c.~~ The address, telephone number and directions to the foster or adoptive parent's home;

~~6.6.b.4. 6.6.2.d.~~ The date and conditions type of approval certification as foster or adoptive parents;

~~6.6.b.5. 6.6.2.e.~~ A list of all placements with the child's name, dates of placement and removal, and a removal summary statement;

~~6.6.b.6.~~ 6.6.2.e. Documentation and verification of the foster or adoptive parent's financial status, marital status, medical examination, and a written report of the interviews with their references;

~~6.6.b.7.~~ 6.6.2.f. ~~A narrative report~~ Narrative reports of the initial home study, annual home reevaluation safety assessment and recertification;

~~6.6.b.8.~~ 6.6.2.g. A letter of approval or denial from the agency including terms and conditions of the approval or denial and any other written agreements ~~or memoranda of understanding;~~

~~6.6.b.9.~~ 6.6.2.h. Documentation of ~~orientation~~ pre-service training and continuing training as required under this rule;

~~6.6.b.10.~~ 6.6.2.i. A written statement of acknowledgment by the foster or adoptive parents that they have received a copy of the policies and procedures of the agency regarding the care and placement of a child;

~~6.6.b.11.~~ 6.6.2.j. ~~A completed Statement of Criminal Record form, the CIB report, WV CARES self-disclosure and consent form, a fitness determination of eligibility from the Department, and any approved variances or waivers from the Secretary;~~

~~6.6.b.12.~~ 6.6.2.k. A completed "Statement of ~~Child/Adult Abuse or Neglect History~~ CPS/APS" form;

~~6.6.b.13.~~ 6.6.2.l. Special incident reports, investigations of child abuse or neglect allegations, noncompliance with the agency's policies or procedures or the requirements of this rule;

~~6.6.b.14.~~ 6.6.2.m. Plans of correction; and

~~6.6.b.15.~~ 6.6.2.n. The date of closure and closure summary report.

~~6.6.c.~~ 6.6.3. Employees. Each record for an employee shall include:

~~6.6.c.1.~~ The employee's application for employment or a resume;

~~6.6.c.2.~~ 6.6.3.a. The employee's position, title, job description, date of hire and date of separation from employment;

~~6.6.c.3.~~ Three (3) letters of reference, two (2) of which shall be professional or educational, to be obtained before an employee is hired;

~~6.6.c.4.~~ 6.6.3.b. Documentation of credentials and certifications;

~~6.6.c.5.~~ The employee's emergency notification information;

~~6.6.c.6.~~ A job performance evaluation completed at six (6) months, and copies of subsequent annual evaluations;

~~6.6.c.7.~~ 6.6.3.c. Reports of any actions or incidents relating to employment;

~~6.6.e.8. 6.6.3.d.~~ Verification of completion of required training, including information on the course title, date and hours of instruction, and the name of the instructor;

~~6.6.e.9. 6.6.3.e.~~ A completed "Statement of Criminal Record" form, the GIB report WV CARES self-disclosure application and consent form, a fitness determination of eligibility form the Department, and any approved variances or waivers from the Secretary;

~~6.6.e.10. 6.6.3.f.~~ A Completed "Statement of ~~Child/Adult Abuse or Neglect History CPS/APS~~" form;

~~6.6.e.11. 6.6.3.g.~~ Acknowledgment of receipt of the agency's employee manual; and

~~6.6.e.12. 6.6.3.h.~~ A notice of resignation or termination from the agency.

~~6.6.d. Biological Parents. Each record for biological parents shall include:~~

~~6.6.d.1. The names, addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, social security numbers and marital status of the biological parents;~~

~~6.6.d.2. A description of all services and programs provided to parents;~~

~~6.6.d.3. Information regarding the status of parental rights including consent to adopt, determination of paternity, relinquishment of parental rights, court orders, and revocation of consent to adopt; and~~

~~6.6.d.4. Written agreements and authorized releases regarding the extent of information disclosure between the biological parents and their child.~~

6.7. Operating Oversight.

~~6.7.a. 6.7.1. Quality Assurance Program. An agency shall develop and implement a written protocol for quality assurance that monitors and evaluates the agency's services and programs and includes:~~

~~6.7.a.1. Policies and procedures necessary to maintain the highest quality care for the children in care and include employee and client participation in the quality assurance program;~~

~~6.7.a.2. Policies and procedures for correcting a practice of noncompliance with the provisions of W. Va. Code Chapter 49, Article 2 W. Va. Code §49-2-101, et seq. and this rule; and~~

~~6.7.a.3. An annual written evaluation of the agency's effectiveness including a review of the following:~~

~~6.7.a.3.A. The agency's goals, objectives and priorities;~~

~~6.7.a.3.B. The agency's organizational structure, services and programs;~~

~~6.7.a.3.C. The number of referrals received and a list of children placed in each service, and the number of referrals denied by the agency and the reasons for those denials;~~

~~6.7.a.3.D. The number of children placed by the agency, and the number referred to another placement;~~

~~6.7.a.3.E. The number and nature of grievances filed and of accidents or incidents reported;~~

~~6.7.a.3.F. The number of times a child has been transferred from one placement to another and the reasons for each transfer;~~

~~6.7.a.3.G. The number of discharges, the reasons for each and where each child was placed upon discharge;~~

~~6.7.a.3.H. The number of children placed in permanent foster care and adoption;~~

~~6.7.a.3.I. The number of employee terminations and the reasons for them;~~

~~6.7.a.3.J. The number of times passive physical restraints were used, and the nature and reasons for the use of passive physical restraints by an agency in its services or programs; and~~

~~6.7.a.3.K. The number and nature of complaints, investigations, and resulting plans of correction.~~

~~6.7.b. Emergencies and Incidents. An agency shall establish an emergency telephone system that is available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, and have procedures in place for:~~

~~6.7.b.1. 6.7.1.a. Reporting an allegation of abuse or neglect to the director, the Institutional Investigative Unit, the placing worker and the child abuse hotline;~~

~~6.7.b.2. 6.7.1.b. Reporting an emergency or an incident of harm, abuse or neglect, a suicide attempt, suspected criminal activity, juvenile delinquent activity, a medical emergency, a death, or suspected use of illicit substances;~~

~~6.7.b.3. 6.7.1.c. Identifying and reporting a child who is absent without leave permission to the guardian or child abuse hotline and a law enforcement authority within twenty-four (24) hours immediately after determining the child cannot be located;~~

~~6.7.b.4. 6.7.1.d. Removing the child Reporting an incident in which the child is removed from the present location and from further contact with the alleged adult offender until an investigation is complete, medical care is obtained and law enforcement is notified;~~

~~6.7.b.5. 6.7.1.e. Submitting of a written Writing a report of the emergency or incident to the director per the agency's policy within forty eight (48) 48 hours of the date of the emergency or incident, that includes a complete description of the emergency or incident, the date and time it occurred, names of the individuals involved, precipitating factors, statements of witnesses, immediate actions taken by employees or other persons and other relevant information concerning the incident;~~

~~6.7.b.6. 6.7.1.f. Changing the child's service plan or changing policy and procedures at the recommendation of the Secretary following an emergency or incident; and Note: Not needed as a standalone item due to this would be addressed in a Corrective Action Plan which must be approved by the Secretary.~~

~~6.7.b.7. 6.7.1.g. Training employees and foster or adoptive parents in the protocol procedure for emergencies and incidents during orientation.~~

~~6.7.c. 6.7.2. Universal Precaution Policies and Procedures. An agency shall train employees and foster or adoptive parents on the policies including: universal precaution procedures.~~

~~6.7.c.1. The prevention, recognition and treatment of infectious and communicable diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases; and~~

~~6.7.c.2. The risks of exposure to infectious agents, materials and instruments, and the control and disposal of them.~~

~~6.7.d. 6.7.3. Noncompliance with an Agency's Policies. An agency's protocol shall:~~

~~6.7.d.1. 6.7.3.a. Identify when employees and foster or adoptive parents are found to be in substantiated noncompliance with its policies and procedures that require a plan of correction or that provide grounds for suspension, dismissal, or closure; and~~

~~6.7.d.2. 6.7.3.b. Establish time limits on the plan of correction and provide for its monitoring.~~

§78-2-7. Staffing Process.

7.1. Staffing Plan.

~~7.1.a. 7.1.1. An agency shall develop and implement a staffing plan to provide for the effective implementation of its services and programs that includes for each service position in the agency, a job description for each position detailing the responsibilities, qualifications, and supervisory chain of command for each position in the agency title of direct supervisor.~~

~~7.1.b. 7.1.2. An agency shall designate a supervisor for each separate service or program.~~

~~7.1.c. 7.1.3. The staffing plan shall set a policy for the ratio of supervisors to employees based on the education and experience level of the supervisory position that can be adjusted for part-time supervisors or inexperienced employees, to ensure adequate guidance and support for each employee.~~

~~7.1.d. 7.1.4. The staffing plan shall include a policy guideline on case load size and the frequency and nature of the staff contact with children.~~

~~7.1.e. 7.1.5. The agency shall revise as needed the staffing plan to reflect changes in services and programs.~~

7.2. Employment Policies Practices. An agency shall have written employment policies practices that include:

~~7.2.a. 7.2.1. A statement that an agency is a nondiscriminating employer with regard to race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age or marital status;~~

~~7.2.b. Information on employment benefits including sick leave, vacation time and holidays;~~

~~7.2.c. Information on probationary periods and tenure provisions, if applicable;~~

~~7.2.d. Termination procedures, including resignation, retirement, suspension, layoff and dismissal;~~

~~7.2.e. 7.2.b. Information on the liability insurance coverage provided by an agency;~~

~~7.2.f. 7.2.c. A requirement that all employees complete a Statement of Criminal Record form and a CIB records check before employment before employment;~~

~~7.2.g. A procedure requirement for an immediate suspension of an employee upon any felony or misdemeanor indictment charge for an a disqualifying offense against a person, public indecency, or violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, W. Va. Code §60A-1-101 et seq., until the charges are resolved, and a requirement that the employee notify the director of any criminal indictment charge within twenty-four (24) hours. This procedure shall require requirement shall provide that an employee convicted of these charges shall no longer be permitted to provide direct services to children and their families.~~

7.2.2. A requirement for immediate suspension of an employee who is alleged to have sexually abused or otherwise injured a child pending the outcome of the investigation.

~~7.2.h. 7.2.3. A policy on the Statement of Child Abuse or Neglect History form stating that:~~

~~7.2.h.1. Upon upon employment, employees shall sign and date a statement that defines child abuse or neglect, as defined in subsection 3.6. of this rule, and outlines the employee's responsibility to report immediately any suspected incident of child abuse or neglect to the executive director or his or her designee, to the Institutional Investigative Unit, and to the Child Abuse Hotline, 1-800-352-6513, in accordance with W. Va. Code §49-2-801 and §49-2-803 et seq.; and~~

~~7.2.h.2. An employee who is alleged to have sexually abused or otherwise injured a child shall be immediately suspended from working with any child in placement pending the outcome of the investigation;~~

~~7.2.i. 7.2.4. A general code of conduct policy on the relationship between employees, a child in placement and his or her family including provisions:~~

~~7.2.i.1. 7.2.4.a. That contact be case-related only as described in the child's service plan, and continue only as specified in the plan; if a child who has been discharged from the program initiates contact with an employee, the employee shall report the nature of the contact to the agency's director or his or her designee within twenty-four (24) hours;~~

~~7.2.i.2. 7.2.4.b. That excursions are case related only;~~

~~7.2.i.3. 7.2.4.c. That a child not cannot stay overnight in the home of an employee, unless the child is in a transitional living program, and that any other daytime home visit, including a holiday, requires prior documented approval from the child's guardian and the agency director that states the purpose, duration and names of those who will be present during the contact; and~~

~~7.2.i.4. 7.2.4.d. For Guidelines for gift giving and receiving among between employees, the children and the families and those served; and~~

~~7.2.j. 7.2.5. A policy that employees applying to be foster or adoptive parents may not be considered for foster or adoptive parenting that employs them.:~~

~~7.2.j.1. Not be considered for foster or adoptive parenting by the agency that employs them, but before consideration for approval by another agency, the employing agency's director shall provide a reference;~~

~~7.2.j.2. Not be supervised by the agency that employs them if a foster or adoptive child is placed in the employee's home.;~~

~~7.2.k. A grievance procedure for employees; and~~

~~7.2.l. A policy on tobacco, alcohol, and drug use by employees.~~

~~7.3. Employee Manual. An agency shall develop and implement a manual of policies and procedures, revised for legislative changes or at the direction of the Secretary, to be provided to each employee upon employment and to each applicant upon request that includes:~~

~~7.3.a. The information and documentation required under this rule; and~~

~~7.3.b. The date of the manual's implementation, review or revision.~~

~~7.4 Background Checks. An agency shall submit a request for a Criminal Identification Bureau (CIB) check and a Protective Services record to an application to the WV CARES unit of the Department of Health and Human Resources on for each potential employee prior to the employee working with children. An agency may submit CIB record checks directly to the West Virginia State Police as permitted by department policy. After receiving notification from the WV CARES unit that a background check has begun, an applicant may work under direct supervision on a provisional basis for no more than 60 days while the background check is being processed. The agency must document that it has pursued the completion of the records check vigorously. The agency is responsible for following policies and procedures with regard to researching possible criminal and protective services backgrounds as established and disseminated by the Secretary completed the background check process for each applicant pursuant to W. Va. Code §46-49-1 et seq., by receipt of a fitness determination of eligibility or variance, if granted.~~

§78-2-8. Employee Requirements.

~~8.1. Qualifications. An agency shall employ individuals whose education, training, experience and personal qualities contribute to the effective implementation of the program and the maximum health and safety of children in placement outline in job descriptions minimum requirements for each position with regard to education, experience, and essential qualification. The agency shall require the following qualifications for each position.~~

~~8.1.a. 8.1.1. The Executive Director shall possess a minimum of:~~

~~8.1.a.1. 8.1.1.a. A master's Degree in a human services field and five (5) years of experience in the human services field; or~~

~~8.1.a.1. 8.1.1.b.~~ A bachelor's degree in a human services field and seven (7) years of experience in the human services field.

~~8.1.b. 8.1.2.~~ Administrative and Supervisory employees, including the Assistant Director, Program Director, and Case Management Supervisor shall possess:

~~8.1.b.1. 8.1.2.a.~~ An advanced degree from an accredited program of social work education or a comparable in a human service field and two (2) years of direct practice experience; or,

~~8.1.b.2. 8.1.2.b.~~ An advanced degree from an accredited program of social work education or a comparable in a human service field and be licensed within the scope of their professional practice; or,

~~8.1.b.3. 8.1.2.c.~~ A Bachelor's degree in social work or a comparable human service field and two years of experience in a human services related field, at least one (1) year of which is in child welfare services.

~~8.1.c. 8.1.3.~~ Clinical and Therapeutic employees, including Physicians, Counselors Therapists, Clinical or Certified Master's level Social Workers, and Psychologists shall have valid West Virginia professional licenses in their fields and shall operate within the scope of their practice under W. Va. Code §§30-3-1 et seq., 30-14-1 et seq., 30-21-1 et seq., 30-30-1 et seq., or 30-31-1 et seq.

~~8.1.d. 8.1.4.~~ Homefinders shall have:

~~A valid West Virginia Board of Social Work Examiners license.~~

~~8.1.e.~~ Case Managers shall have:

~~8.1.e.1. A a Bachelor's or master's or Board of Regents degree in social work or a related human service field, or an advanced degree from a program of social work education or a comparable human service field.~~

~~8.1.e.2. Supervision for case managers not licensed within the scope of their practice shall be provided by a person with an advanced degree in social work or a comparable human service field who has at least two (2) years experience or has an advanced degree in social work or a comparable human service field and is licensed in their field.~~

~~8.1.e.3. The Department requires agency employees to obtain professional continuing education or course work as specified in 8.2.d.2.~~

~~8.1.f. 8.1.5.~~ Para-Professional employees shall possess:

~~8.1.f.1. A a high school diploma or GED and be at least twenty-one (21) years of age;~~

~~8.1.f.2. Training during the first six (6) months of employment as prescribed in this rule; and~~

~~8.1.f.3. If they provide direct services to clients, in addition to the general required training, completed client-specific training on the services they provide and have documentation from the training supervisor that they are competent to deliver the services.~~

8.2. Training and Development. An agency shall develop and implement a comprehensive plan for employee orientation, ongoing training and development, and supervisory review, including performance and program evaluations.

~~8.2.a. 8.2.1. Orientation Training. An agency shall require that all direct care service employees involved included in child placing services, within three (3) months of employment, complete a minimum of forty (40) hours of orientation training in areas including:~~

~~8.2.a.1. 8.2.1.a. The agency's philosophy, goals and objectives and mission;~~

~~8.2.a.2. 8.2.1.b. An overview of the agency's operations;~~

~~8.2.a.3. Licensing rules and the legal aspects of substitute care;~~

~~8.2.a.4. 8.2.1.c. The service planning process;~~

~~8.2.a.5. 8.2.1.d. A crisis intervention model that includes interviewing interviewing techniques;~~

~~8.2.a.6. Conflict conflict de-escalation and conflict resolution; and~~

~~8.2.a.7. Crisis crisis intervention and methods of passive restraint; and~~

~~8.2.a.8. 8.2.1.e. Mandatory reporting requirements for child abuse and neglect;~~

~~8.2.1.f. Normalcy for foster children;~~

~~8.2.1.g. Reasonable Prudent Parent Standard;~~

~~8.2.1.h. Human Trafficking Prevention for foster children and National Runaway Youth Prevention;~~

~~8.2.1.i. Trauma-informed care;~~

~~8.2.1.j. Runaway Absent From Supervision youth procedures; and~~

~~8.2.a.10. 8.2.b. 8.2.1.k. First Aid and CPR Training appropriate to the age of the children they serve. An agency shall require that all employees involved in child placing services, within the first three (3) months of employment received First Aid and CPR training appropriate to the age of the children they serve, in infant, child, and adult certification. NOTE: CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING ARE NOT THE SAME.~~

~~8.2.a.11. An agency shall require that all employees providing direct services to clients receive initial training to include values and cultural diversity, ethics, child abuse and neglect issues, and behavior management. This group of initial trainings shall be completed within the first six months of employment. Note: Moved from 8.2.d.1~~

~~8.2.c. Supervised Practice. An agency shall have a written policy regarding supervision of personnel involved in direct service. The policy shall stipulate frequency and type of supervision based upon job position and experience of the personnel.~~

8.2.d. 8.2.2. Ongoing Training.

~~8.2.d.1. 8.2.2.a. An agency shall require that all employees providing direct services to clients receive at least twenty (20) hours of ongoing additional training within six (6) months of employment in areas including assessment of family dynamics, human growth and development, in the areas of values and cultural diversity, ethics, child abuse and neglect issues, trauma, the Adoption and Safe Families Act and behavior management, within the first six months of employment.~~

~~8.2.d.2. 8.2.2.b. An agency shall require that after the first year of employment, all employees providing direct services to clients, complete a minimum of twenty five (25) hours of ongoing training per year, fifteen (15) hours of which shall be directly related to the employee's responsibilities.~~

~~8.2.e. Supervisory Review.~~

~~8.2.e.1. An agency shall set a policy requiring all employees to receive regular, planned supervisory reviews through individual conferences and meetings, the frequency to be determined by the experience of an employee and the amount of consultation and guidance the employee needs.~~

~~8.2.e.2. An agency shall require a supervisor to complete performance evaluations for each employee after the first six (6) months and annually thereafter. The evaluation shall include goals and objectives for the employee, be signed and dated by the supervisor and employee and give the employee an opportunity to respond in writing.~~

8.3. Contracted Professional Services.

~~8.3.a. 8.3.1. An agency shall verify that all contracted professional services are certified or licensed in the service they are providing, according to W. Va. Code §30-1-1 et seq.~~

~~8.3.b. 8.3.2. An agency shall develop and implement a written agreement with contracted professionals who provide direct services to a child in placement describing the specific services to be provided.~~

~~8.3.c. An agency shall require that a contracted professional providing direct services to a child in placement provide written reports to the child's case manager documentation of services.~~

8.4. Volunteers.

~~8.4.a. 8.4.1. An agency which that uses volunteer services, including student field placements and internships, shall develop and implement a plan for their specific use, shall provide that an agency employee oversee their service, and shall provide training, prior to their beginning service, on:~~

~~8.4.a.1. 8.4.1.a. The policies, procedures, goals and objectives of the agency program and agency orientation;~~

~~8.4.a.2. 8.4.1.b. The service planning process;~~

~~8.4.a.3.~~ The services offered and the volunteer's role on the team;

~~8.4.a.4.~~ 8.4.1.c. The policies ~~on~~ regarding confidentiality;

~~8.4.a.5.~~ 8.4.1.d. The policies ~~on reporting~~ regarding mandatory reporting requirements for child abuse or neglect;

~~8.4.a.6.~~ 8.4.1.e. The code of conduct ~~between employee and children~~ for the volunteer; and

~~8.4.a.7.~~ 8.4.1.f. The emergency ~~protect~~ procedure.

~~8.4.b.~~ 8.4.2. An agency shall require volunteers who are working directly with youth to provide references, complete a Statement of Criminal Record form, complete background checks in accordance with the provisions of the WV CARES act and rules and complete a Child/Adult Abuse or Neglect History form. APS/CPS check.

~~8.4.c.~~ 8.4.3. An agency shall require that volunteers who are working directly with youth have a ~~physical examination by a physician~~ medical screening by a qualified medical practitioner and a ~~tuberculosis risk assessment or test with negative risk assessment or test results within three (3) months of prior to providing services to children and once a year thereafter every five years thereafter.~~ This does not take into consideration a volunteer who may only volunteer for a special event vs regular volunteering hours.

~~8.5. Adoption Services or Foster Care Handbook.~~

~~8.5.a.~~ An agency that provides adoption or foster care services shall operate the program in accordance with this licensing rule, and shall give to the adoptive and foster parents a handbook stating the necessary policies, procedures, laws and forms.

~~8.5.b.~~ An agency shall review and revise policies and procedures according to legislative changes under W. Va. Code Chapter 49, Article 2 (Part 1) or per the Secretary's directive during a licensure application, and shall record the dates of implementation and revision.

~~8.5.c.~~ An agency shall give foster, adoptive and biological parents the opportunity to participate in the review and revision process.

§78-2-9. The Child's and The Child's Family's Basic Rights.

9.1. For the child and the child's biological family, an agency shall ensure the following rights:

~~9.1.a.~~ 9.1.1. Equal access to services regardless of age, marital status, race, religion, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation;

~~9.1.b.~~ 9.1.2. Services consistent with identified needs in the least restrictive environment available;

~~9.1.c.~~ 9.1.3. Interdisciplinary, therapeutic services that meet a child's physical, emotional, social, educational and financial needs;

~~9.1.d.~~ 9.1.4. Active participation and respect as an individual during the delivery of services process;

~~9.1.e.~~ 9.1.5. Reasonable privacy; and

~~9.1.f.~~ 9.1.6. Contact between a child and his or her biological family is not restricted as a means of punishment or in any way except as specified by court order or documented in the child's service or treatment plan. Visits shall take place during hours different from an agency's business hours when the family cannot visit during those hours, and shall be arranged and take place with the prior knowledge of the foster or adoptive parents.

9.2. A ~~Child~~ child receiving services from the Agency shall have in addition to the rights in subsection 9.1. of this rule, the following:

~~9.2.a.~~ 9.2.1. Adequate shelter, food and clothing;

~~9.2.b.~~ 9.2.2. Education and training;

~~9.2.c.~~ 9.2.3. Services necessary to promote safety, permanency and well-being;

~~9.2.d.~~ 9.2.4. Adult guidance, support and supervision;

~~9.2.e.~~ 9.2.5. Freedom from abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and

~~9.2.f.~~ 9.2.6. Full and reasonable communication with his or her attorney, clergyman, and an authorized representative of the placing agency or of the court of record, including visits, correspondence, and telephone calls.

9.3. An agency shall develop and implement ~~policies~~ procedures to ensure that a child in placement's maximum health and safety needs are met including receiving:

~~9.3.a.~~ 9.3.1. The level of supervision required in the service plan as guided by reasonable and prudent parent standards;

~~9.3.b.~~ 9.3.2. Appropriate medical screening, diagnosis, and treatment on a regular basis; and

~~9.3.c.~~ 9.3.3. A minimum of the following routine medical, dental, and vision examinations and treatment, as proscribed, and emergency ~~medical and dental~~ treatment, as needed:

~~9.3.c.1.~~ 9.3.3.a. An initial general medical examination by a physician ~~thirty (30)~~ days before placement or within ~~thirty (30)~~ days after placement and routine medical examinations after that as recommended for the child's age. In addition, children placed by the Department shall be treated in accordance with the Sander's Consent Decree, which is an agreed order between the Department and the court to provide medical care to children in the Department's custody, and the Health Check requirements available through the Department Office of Maternal and Child Health; Note: Sander's Consent Decree must be provided to the Child Placing Agencies by DHHR.

~~9.3.c.2.~~ 9.3.3.b. For children with extraordinary medical needs, unless a medical examination can be documented within the previous 30 days or the child was discharged from an inpatient facility, the

~~child is examined by a physician within 72 hours after initial placement, and the physician documents that the child can be appropriately cared for in a home setting;~~

~~9.3.3.c. Immunizations as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics;~~

~~9.3.c.3, 9.3.3.d. For a child two (2) years and older, an examination by a dentist six (6) months before placement or will be scheduled within thirty (30) days after placement unless an examination can be documented within the previous 30 days, and after that a semiannual examination by a dentist and follow-up treatment as needed; and~~

~~9.3.c.4, 9.3.3.e. For a child four years and older, an eye screening by an optometrist will be scheduled within 30 days after placement unless a screening can be documented within the previous 30 days, and follow up as indicated by Health Check requirements;~~

~~9.3.3.f. Any treatment or aids prescribed including eyeglasses, a hearing aid, and a prosthetic or corrective device;~~

~~9.4. Children with Extraordinary Medical Needs. Before accepting a child with an extraordinary medical need beyond routine and preventive medical care, an agency shall ensure that:~~

~~9.4.a. Unless a medical examination can be documented within the previous thirty (30) days, the child is examined by a physician within seven (7) days before initial placement, and the physician documents that the child can be appropriately cared for in a home setting;~~

~~9.4.b. 9.3.3.g. The physician documents documentation from the physician in the child's record, complete orders for medication, treatment, diet, range of motion programs, habilitation, and special medical or developmental procedures needed;~~

~~9.4.c. 9.3.3.h. The foster or adoptive parents receive all of the training necessary to care for the child prior to placement or as soon as possible in the case of an emergency placement;~~

~~9.4.d. 9.3.3.i. The foster or adoptive parents maintain a daily medication log for each child that includes the name of the medication, why it was prescribed, the physician who prescribed it, the dosage, the administration schedule, the potential side effects and any change in the medication that the physician makes;~~

~~9.4.e. 9.3.3.j. Medication Prescription medication is administered for therapeutic reasons only and under the following provisions:~~

~~9.4.e.1. 9.3.3.j.1. A physician shall examine the child before prescribing a medication, and he or she is the only one who can alter the medication or medication level;~~

~~9.4.e.2. 9.3.3.j.2. The child's parents or guardian may revoke consent for a medication at any time, and upon revocation the administration of the medication shall cease immediately;~~

~~9.4.e.3. When the parents or guardian or child revoke consent, an agency shall inform the prescribing physician; if the prescribing physician reports that it is necessary for the well being of the child, an agency shall seek a court order to have it continued; and~~

~~9.4.e.4. An agency shall establish procedures for medication errors in dosage, administration or adverse side effects that include contacting the prescribing physician and documenting the incident;~~

~~9.4.f. The agency shall ensure that psychotropic medication is administered in accordance with the following:~~

~~9.4.f.1. 9.3.3.i.3. The parents or guardian of a child, and a child fourteen (14) years or older unless the child is documented to be lacking the capacity for informed consent, shall give prior written informed consent for the use of a psychotropic medication; and~~

~~9.4.f.2. 9.3.3.i.4. The child's foster or adoptive parents and primary case manager shall receive training related to the psychotropic medication, its expected results, its potential side effects, and an agency's policies regarding its use;~~

~~9.4.f.3. 9.3.3.i.5. A child fourteen (14) years or older who refuses to take medication three (3) consecutive times shall be considered to have revoked consent;~~

~~9.4.f.4. 9.3.3.i.6. When consent is revoked, the administration of medication shall cease immediately unless titration is needed at the direction of the physician; and~~

~~9.4.e.5. 9.3.3.i.7. When the parents or guardian revoke consent, an agency shall inform the prescribing physician; if the prescribing physician reports that it is necessary for the well being of the child, an agency shall seek a court order to have it continued the agency shall relay the recommendation by the physician to the Department; and~~

~~9.3.3.i.8. An agency shall establish procedures for medication errors in dosage, administration or adverse side effects that include contacting the prescribing physician and documenting the incident.~~

~~9.3.3.k. Over-the-counter medication shall be dispensed by a foster parent using the reasonable and prudent parenting standards.~~

~~9.5. 9.4. Religious Preferences.~~

~~9.5.a. An agency shall develop and implement a written description of its religious orientation, if any, policies and procedures, if applicable, and shall provide the information to the child and his or her biological parents or guardian upon admission.~~

~~9.5.b. An agency shall inform the child and his or her biological parents or guardian about the foster parents' religious preferences, if any, prior to placement; and~~

~~9.5.c. Upon a child's admission, an agency shall determine the religious preference of the child, if any, and the child's parent or guardian. The agency shall ensure the opportunity for the child to attend the religious service of his or her choice if he or she expresses one.~~

~~9.6. 9.5. Multiethnic Placements.~~

~~9.6.a. 9.5.1. In placement or adoption decisions, an agency shall not consider race, color or national origin unless it is part of an individualized determination that the facts and circumstances of a particular case require the consideration of race, color or national origin in order to advance the best interests of the child and in accordance with applicable federal law and policy.~~

~~Considerations of race, color or national origin shall be in accordance with applicable federal law and the policy guidance of the Office of Civil Rights of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. Consult 60 Federal Register 20,272 (April 25, 1995) or <http://www.os.dhhs.gov/progers/ocr/acf.htm>.~~

~~9.6.b. 9.5.2.~~ An agency shall ensure that a child, at his or her discretion, has the opportunity to participate in cultural and ethnic activities significant to his or her heritage.

~~9.6.c. 9.5.3.~~ In accordance with the Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 as amended by the Removal of Barriers to Interethnic Adoption Act of 1996, an agency shall not delay or deny a child's foster care or adoptive placement on the basis of the child's or the prospective parent's race, ethnicity, color, or national origin.

~~9.6.d. An agency cannot deny any individual the opportunity to become a foster or adoptive parent on the basis of the prospective parent's or the child's race, color, ethnicity, or national origin.~~

~~9.7. 9.6.~~ Behavior Management and Discipline. An agency shall provide policies and procedures for foster or adoptive parents to use as guides in disciplining a child and shall explain them to the agency employees, the placing worker, the child, the foster or adoptive parents, and the biological parents or guardian and behavior management.

~~9.7.a. 9.6.1.~~ Appropriate methods of discipline include:

~~9.7.a.1. 9.6.1.a.~~ An emphasis on discipline with kindness and understanding, using positive feedback and rewards to reinforce good or improved behavior;

~~9.7.a.2. 9.6.1.b.~~ Simple, clear, understandable and consistent household rules;

~~9.7.a.3. 9.6.1.c.~~ Measures appropriate to the developmental level of the child that help him or her develop self-control and learn responsibility for his or her own actions;

~~9.7.a.4. 9.6.1.d.~~ That only a parent or other prior approved adult care-giver is permitted to discipline the child;

~~9.7.a.5. 9.6.1.e.~~ That measures are administered close to the time of the child's act or behavior for teaching purposes and if time out is used, that it be for a reasonable period of time;

~~9.7.a.6. 9.6.1.f.~~ That crisis intervention skills and techniques be used according to agency policy only, including provisions:

~~9.7.a.6.A. That passive physical restraint be used only after receiving training on the agency approved method of restraint; and~~

~~9.7.a.6.B. That the foster or adoptive parents report to their designated supervisor who will document the use of crisis intervention skills and techniques passive physical restraint and submit an incident report to the director or his or her designee for review within twenty-four (24) hours of the intervention or the next working day after the intervention.~~

~~9.7.b. 9.6.2.~~ Inappropriate Methods of Discipline. An agency shall develop and implement policies and procedures that ensure that a child is not disciplined with cruel, harsh, unusual or unnecessary

punishment, and shall develop and implement a description of those measures and methods that are not permitted, including but not limited to the following:

~~9.7.b.1.~~ 9.6.2.a. Any type of physical hitting, spanking, slapping or other type of physical punishment inflicted in any manner upon the child's body;

~~9.7.b.2.~~ 9.6.2.b. Threats of removal from the foster or adoptive home;

~~9.7.b.3.~~ 9.6.2.c. Any acts, verbal abuse, or emotional abuse that humiliates, shames, disgraces, ridicules, belittles, or destroys a child's sense of dignity or self-worth including any remarks made about the child's biological parents or family;

~~9.7.b.4.~~ 9.6.2.d. Keeping a child out of school;

~~9.7.b.5.~~ 9.6.2.e. Denying food, clothing, shelter or bedding;

~~9.7.b.6.~~ 9.6.2.f. Closing or locking a child in any enclosed space;

~~9.7.b.7.~~ 9.6.2.g. Denying mail, telephone calls or visits with biological family members, unless it is related to ~~section 9.1.f.3.~~ subdivision 9.1.6. of this rule;

~~9.7.b.8.~~ 9.6.2.h. Withholding a program service or a provision in the service plan; or

~~9.7.b.9.~~ 9.6.2.i. Administering a medication that has not been prescribed.

~~9.7.c.~~ 9.6.3. An agency shall ensure that behavior problems are treated individually and privately. If there is a consistent pattern of unacceptable behavior, an agency shall develop a separate behavior management plan to be added to the child's service plan.

~~9.8.~~ 9.7. The Child's Financial Resources.

~~9.8.a.~~ 9.7.1. An agency shall ensure that money earned, received as a gift, or given as an allowance is the child's personal property.

~~9.8.b.~~ 9.7.2. An agency shall ~~not place conditions on a child's money unless they are specified in the service plan~~ use reasonable and prudent parent standards to assist the child in making decisions regarding spending or saving the child's money.

~~9.8.c.~~ 9.7.3. An agency shall not require a child to pay for his or her care or services ~~unless it is specified in the child's service plan.~~

~~9.8.d.~~ An agency shall maintain a separate account for each child's financial resources and return the resources upon the child's discharge.

~~9.9.~~ 9.8. Clothing.

~~9.9.a.~~ 9.8.1. An agency shall ensure that each child has adequate, well-fitting and seasonal clothing appropriate to his or her age, sex and individual needs, shall allow the child choice in the selection of the clothing, and shall replenish the wardrobe as necessary.

~~9.9.b.~~ 9.8.2. At the time of placement and at the time of discharge, an agency shall take an inventory of the child's clothing and personal possessions.

9.8.3. Agency shall ensure that each child has appropriate luggage or containers to transport his or her personal items.

§78-2-10. Placement Plans and Procedures.

10.1. Referrals.

~~10.1.a.~~ 10.1.1. An agency shall may accept referrals from persons or organizations that have an interest in the welfare, security or treatment of the child and the child's family, and that have authority to make the referral.

~~10.1.b.~~ 10.1.2. An agency shall may develop and implement policies and procedures for determining if a referral is appropriate for the services the agency offers, and for accepting a voluntary referral from a child or a child's biological parent.

~~10.1.c.~~ When an agency offers placement services to biological parents, it shall provide counseling to preserve the family unit, including alternatives to placement, and document the counseling.

10.2. Intake. An employee designated by the agency shall be responsible for:

~~10.2.a.~~ 10.2.1. Conducting an intake interview with the child, the child's biological parents or guardian, or the foster or adoptive parents to determine the need for services;

~~10.2.b.~~ 10.2.2. Providing orientation to the agency, including an overview of the placement process, the child assessment process, and identifying which agency employee is responsible for each activity;

~~10.2.c.~~ 10.2.3. Coordinating the child assessment process with the child, the child's biological parents, and the placing worker;

~~10.2.d.~~ 10.2.4. Introducing the child and his or her family to the case manager assigned to them by the agency; and

~~10.2.e.~~ 10.2.5. Participating in the service planning process.

10.3. Written Service Agreement. Upon placement of a child, an agency shall develop and implement a written, signed, and dated service agreement between the child's parents or guardian and the agency that shall include:

~~10.3.a.~~ 10.3.1. Specific services to be provided;

~~10.3.b.~~ 10.3.2. A description of the fees or reimbursement;

~~10.3.c.~~ 10.3.3. A list of the planning team members;

~~10.3.d. 10.3.4.~~ Signed consent and authorization forms when necessary for the delivery of services, including to obtain medical and dental care, for travel, for the release of information, and to obtain photographs and audio or video recordings of the child;

~~10.3.e. 10.3.5.~~ Responsibilities of the child, the biological parent or guardian, the primary case manager, the foster parents or the adoptive parents during the service delivery; and

~~10.3.f. 10.3.6.~~ A description of the conduct or activity by the child or family that may result in the agency's discontinuing services to them.

~~10.4. Intake Service Plan. Based on the intake interview and available referral information, an agency shall develop an intake service plan within seven (7) days of placement to be signed and dated by the child, if appropriate to his or her age, and the child's biological parent or guardian. The plan shall include:~~

~~10.4.a. 10.4.1. An initial identification of the child's strengths and service needs;~~

~~10.4.b. 10.4.2. The objectives of the placement and the agency's plan for meeting them;~~

~~10.4.c. 10.4.3. A recommendation for the best type of placement identification of the permanency plan;~~

~~10.4.d. 10.4.4. Services, assessments, and evaluations that need to be provided prior to the development of the master service plan;~~

~~10.4.e. 10.4.5. Specific management strategies agreed upon by the agency and biological parents or guardian in handling any known behavioral problems; and~~

~~10.4.f. 10.4.6. A projected goal date for the development of the master service plan.~~

~~10.5. Child Assessment. An agency shall complete a detailed narrative child assessment prior to developing the master service plan that includes the following information:~~

~~10.5.a. 10.5.1. The name, telephone number and address of the referral source;~~

~~10.5.b. A summary of the circumstances that led to the child's referral for placement;~~

~~10.5.c. 10.5.2. The child's physical description, including a recent photograph;~~

~~10.5.d. 10.5.3. The child's personality description, including the child's appropriate and maladaptive behavior. The child's current strengths, presenting issues, and a summary of the child's history;~~

~~10.5.e. 10.5.4. A complete Any reported developmental history, including birth and health history, and deviations from the normal range of development;~~

~~10.5.f. 10.5.5. A Any known biological family history and background that provides:~~

~~10.5.f.1. 10.5.5.a. A physical description and health history of each immediate family member members;~~

~~10.5.f.2. 10.5.5.b. A description of the biological mother's pregnancy, including prenatal care, nutrition, and use of alcohol or drugs;~~

~~10.5.f.3. 10.5.5.c. The formal education and training, functional level, and occupation of each immediate family member members;~~

~~10.5.f.4. 10.5.5.d. The special interests, religious preferences, if any, achievements and abilities of each family member;~~

~~10.5.f.5. 10.5.5.e. The relationship of each family member to the child;~~

~~10.5.f.6. 10.5.5.f. A description of the child's or family's support system; and~~

~~10.5.f.7. 10.5.5.g. Any other significant information that may affect the child's development;~~

~~10.5.g. 10.5.6. An assessment of the The child's current health status, including records of a current medical examination, and immunizations, laboratory work done, and any additional tests or evaluations;~~

~~10.5.h. 10.5.7. The child's education history, including the current level of functioning and the results of any testing that would indicate that special services are needed if special education service indicated by an individual educational plan (IEP) or 504 Plan;~~

~~10.5.i. 10.5.8. For any child age fourteen (14) years or older, a life skills assessment;~~

~~10.5.j. 10.5.9. A description of the child's relationships with peers and significant adults outside of the family;~~

~~10.5.k. 10.5.10. The special interests, achievements, and abilities of the child;~~

~~10.5.l. 10.5.11. A complete description of known previous interventions or placements with the child and biological family and their results;~~

~~10.5.m. 10.5.12. The child's current legal status;~~

Add : Service Plans. Based on the intake interview and available referral information, an agency shall develop an initial plan of care within 7 days of placement to be signed and dated by the child, if appropriate to his or her age, and the child's biological parent or guardian. A Master Service Plan will be created within 30 days of placement that is inclusive of the services, assessments, evaluations, and specific management strategies. The Master Service Plan shall be reviewed every 90 days to include progress, barriers, and the identification of any new needs, goals, or objectives. All plans shall be signed and dated by the members of the planning team and a copy given to each member of the team.

Child assessment. An agency shall complete a detailed narrative child assessment prior to developing the Master Service Plan. The assessment shall be inclusive of the removal history, placement history, social history, developmental history, educational history, medical history, psychological history, visitation plans, and discharge planning period.

~~10.5.a. 10.5.13.~~ The date and signature of the employee completing the child assessment; and

~~10.5.a. 10.5.14.~~ For emergency placements, a summary of circumstances that describe the immediate conditions that led to the placement and as much information as is available about the child at the time of admission, completed within two (2) working days of admission.

10.6. Match Summary.

~~An agency shall use an evaluation of the child's needs and strengths and the information provided by the referring entity to develop a match summary that shall be used to place a child with an appropriate family.~~ Note: This information will be captured on the placement log and therefore a separate summary is not necessary.

~~10.7. The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.~~ Note: This section can only be performed by the WVDHHR prior to placement with the provider; therefore the 10.7 section should be removed as a child placing provider regulation.

~~10.7.a. 10.7.1.~~ Before placing a child in a foster or adoptive home in another state or accepting a child for placement from another state, an agency shall make the referral through the Interstate Compact Administrator in the Department in accordance with W. Va. Code 549-7-101 et seq. and 549-7-201.

~~10.7.b. 10.7.2.~~ Before placing a child out of state, an agency shall secure written approval from the Interstate Compact Administrator in the receiving state.

~~10.8. Preparation of a Child for Placement.~~ Note: Child Placing Agency does not have child prior to placement therefore 10.8 section should be removed as a child placing provider regulation.

~~10.8.a. 10.8.1.~~ An agency shall prepare a child for a placement, appropriate to his or her age and developmental level.

~~10.8.b. 10.8.2.~~ The agency shall provide information and support to the child as appropriate to help the child understand what the placement process is and what it will mean to him or her.

10.9. Planning Team.

~~10.9.a. 10.9.1.~~ An agency shall utilize a planning team to develop a service plan for a child's foster care.

~~10.9.b. 10.9.2.~~ The planning team shall include members to be invited: the child as appropriate to his or her level of understanding, the parents or guardian, foster parent, the family's case manager, the placing worker, the child's attorney, professionals working with the child, and other individuals significant in the child's life that have an interest in the child.

~~10.9.c. 10.9.3.~~ An agency shall ensure that any plan developed from the ~~Multi-Disciplinary Multidisciplinary~~ Team process assists in the development of the service plan, and any service plan developed by the agency shall not conflict in any manner with the Child's Case Plan.

Note: Child Placing Agencies do not receive the Child's Case Plan. The Child Placing Agency must be invited to the MDT.

~~10.10. Master Service Plan. See information under Service Plans in red comments provided.~~

~~10.10.a. 10.10.1. An agency shall ensure that within thirty (30) days of placement of a child in foster care, the planning team develops a service plan for each child.~~

~~10.10.b. 10.10.2. The planning team shall use the child assessment, an evaluation of the child's needs and strengths, and information from the Multi-Disciplinary/Multidisciplinary Team process to develop the service plan.~~

~~10.10.c. 10.10.3. The service plan shall include:~~

~~10.10.c.1. 10.10.3.a. The child's specific needs and strengths, the plan for meeting or supporting them, the way each strength will be supported, the time frame for meeting each need or goal, and the methods of measurement;~~

~~10.10.c.2. 10.10.3.b. Any special services to be provided;~~

~~10.10.c.3. 10.10.3.c. The nature and frequency of planned respite care, if appropriate;~~

~~10.10.c.4. 10.10.3.d. Information about the nature and frequency of the child's contact with his or her biological family, employees, and other planning team members;~~

~~10.10.c.5. 10.10.3.e. A description of the conditions under which a child shall be returned to his or her home, be placed for adoption, attain independent living or be discharged to another program child's permanency plan; and~~

~~10.10.c.6. 10.10.3.f. Assessment of the long range goals and planning for the child; and~~

~~10.10.c.7. An identification of all persons responsible for implementing or overseeing the implementing of the goals, objectives, and services identified in the service plan.~~

~~10.10.d. 10.10.4. An agency shall ensure that the service plan is signed and dated by the planning team, and a copy given to each member.~~

~~10.10.e. 10.10.5. When a planning team member is unable to participate, the reasons for non-participation shall be noted on the service plan it shall be noted on the signature page of the service plan.~~

~~10.10.f. 10.10.6. An agency shall ensure that the service plan and subsequent revisions are explained to the child, his or her biological parents or guardian, and the foster or adoptive parents in language that is understandable to them, and the explanation shall be documented on the plan.~~

~~10.10.g. 10.10.7. If an agency does not ensure that the service plan is explained, the reasons for the lack of explanation shall be documented in the plan on the signature page.~~

~~10.11. Service Plan Review:~~

~~10.11.a. 10.11.1. An agency shall ensure that each child's service plan is reviewed by the planning team no less often than once every three (3) months.~~

~~10.11.b. 10.11.2. An agency shall give members of the planning team at least two (2) weeks notice of the scheduled review, and a copy of this notice shall be placed in the child's record.~~

~~10.11.c. 10.11.3. The review shall include the following:~~

~~10.11.c.1. 10.11.3.a. An evaluation of the progress toward meeting each identified need, goal and objective;~~

~~10.11.c.2. 10.11.3.b. An evaluation of the continuing need for the current placement;~~

~~10.11.c.3. An identification of any new needs, goals or objectives, the plan and time frame for meeting them, the person who will be responsible for implementing them, and the methods of measurement; and~~

~~10.11.c.4. 10.11.3.c. Any changes in the estimated length of placement, long range goals, or discharge plans; and~~

~~10.11.c.5. An evaluation of the progress in alleviating the reasons the child was placed in care.~~

~~10.11.d. 10.11.4. The review and updated service plan shall be signed and dated by the members of the planning team and a copy given to each member of the team.~~

§78-2-11. Transfers and Discharges.

11.1. An agency shall develop and implement a protocol procedure for transferring a child from one foster or adoptive home ~~or placement~~ to another within the agency that includes:

~~11.1.a. 11.1.1. Documentation of the circumstances causing the move;~~

~~11.1.b. 11.1.2. Documentation of a new match summary;~~

~~11.1.c. A procedure for obtaining supervisory and planning team approval for the new placement. Documentation of approval from the Department and notification to the planning team, as required by W. Va. Code §49-4-608;~~

~~11.1.d. A procedure for notifying the planning team, specifically the child's guardian, of the new placement. Notification shall occur not less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to a transfer, under W. Va. Code §49-4-608, or in an emergency transfer situation, not less than forty-eight (48) hours after the placement, under W. Va. Code §49-4-608.~~

~~11.1.e. A provision that a child six (6) months and older shall have a minimum of one (1) visit with the new foster parents prior to placement when the placement is not an emergency;~~

~~11.1.f. 11.1.3. An account of the child's understanding of and response to the transfer; and~~

~~11.1.g. 11.1.4. A provision that prior to the child's placement, the new foster or adoptive parents, excluding respite, shall be given a copy of the child's current service plan and the child's social, medical, psychological and school history;~~

~~11.1.h. A provision that the planning team shall amend the child's service plan within ten (10) working days of the transfer; and~~

~~11.1.i. A provision that when a child is transferred more than three (3) times in a year, excluding planned respite time that does not exceed fourteen (14) days as documented in the child's service plan, the agency shall provide the following information to the child's placing worker, as required under W. Va. Code §49-4-608~~

~~11.1.i.1. A written summary of the transfers, including reasons for the moves; and~~

~~11.1.i.2. Plans to prevent further transfers that are not in accordance with the child's service plan.~~

~~11.2. An agency shall develop and implement a written protocol for transferring a child to a placement outside of the agency's program.~~

~~11.3. An agency shall develop and implement a written protocol for terminating the placement of a child in a foster home after eighteen (18) months, and the protocol shall be in accordance with W. Va. Code §49-4-111.~~

~~11.4. 11.2. An agency shall ensure that the planning team develops an aftercare plan not less than three (3) months prior to the planned discharge of a child that includes:~~

~~11.4.a. 11.2.1. An evaluation of the most recent service plan, identifying the goals and needs that have been met and those that have not;~~

~~11.4.b. 11.2.2. Identifying the services and resources necessary to meet the remaining goals and needs of the child, the individuals responsible for each service, and the frequency necessary for each service;~~

~~11.4.c. 11.2.3. The name, address and telephone number of the person or agency to which the child is to be discharged, if known;~~

~~11.4.d. 11.2.4. A protocol procedure for transferring information and records about the child to the new program when the child is to be placed in another program upon discharge;~~

~~11.4.e. 11.2.5. An account of the child's awareness and understanding of his or her aftercare plan;~~

~~11.4.f. 11.2.6. The signatures of the planning team members and dates they signed the aftercare plan;~~

~~11.4.g. 11.2.7. Documentation of any disagreement of a planning team member with the child's discharge or aftercare plan; and~~

~~11.4.h. 11.2.8. The reasons why a member of the planning team is unable to participate in the aftercare planning.~~

~~11.5.~~ 11.3. An agency shall develop and implement a written ~~protocol~~ procedure for ~~unplanned discharges a request for removal from the agency's care~~ that are not in the child's service plan. For an ~~unplanned discharge a request for removal~~ other than an emergency, an agency shall give a minimum of ~~ten (10)~~ working days notice of the discharge to the placing worker, or his or her supervisor, ~~and to the child's parents or guardian.~~

~~11.6.~~ 11.4. An agency shall develop and implement a written ~~protocol~~ procedure for emergency discharges that includes the following provisions:

~~11.6.a.~~ 11.4.1. An emergency discharge shall occur only when a child's behavior may present a danger to himself or herself or others or when the foster family experiences a calamity;

~~11.6.b.~~ 11.4.2. The identification of employees designated by the agency to have the authority to assess the child's status and to recommend an appropriate alternate placement;

~~11.6.c.~~ 11.4.3. ~~An agency shall notify the placing worker, the biological parents or guardian, and the primary case manager of the discharge immediately;~~ *Note: WV DHHR approves emergency removal and discharge.*

~~11.6.d.~~ 11.4.4. ~~If the agency arranges for an emergency placement, the placing worker and the primary case manager shall be consulted in determining which program placement best meets the child's needs;~~ *Note: If emergency placement is arranged outside of the agency, this is the WV DHHR responsibility. Agency staff have no legal authority to do so.*

~~11.6.e.~~ 11.4.5. ~~The child shall be accompanied by a designated agency employee to the receiving agency or individual; and~~

~~11.6.f.~~ 11.4.6. An agency shall document the emergency discharge in the child's case record within ~~twenty-four (24)~~ hours of the discharge.

~~11.7.~~ 11.5. On the day of a planned discharge an agency shall document the following information in the child's record:

~~11.7.a.~~ 11.5.1. The return by the agency of the child's personal items, prescribed medication and dosage instructions, and personal records including the child's birth certificate, and social security card, ~~and school records;~~ and

~~11.7.b.~~ 11.5.2. The name, relationship to the child, and address of the person or agency receiving physical custody of the child upon discharge, if known.

~~11.8.~~ 11.6. Within ~~thirty (30)~~ days of the date of a child's discharge, an agency shall complete a written discharge summary that includes the following information:

~~11.8.a.~~ 11.6.1. The name, address, telephone number and relationship of the person or agency to which the child was discharged, if known;

~~11.8.b.~~ 11.6.2. The date ~~and time~~ of the child's discharge;

~~11.8.c.~~ 11.6.3. The reason for the child's discharge;

~~11.8.d.~~ 11.6.4. A summary of all services provided during placement;

~~11.8.e.~~ 11.6.5. An account of the child's growth and accomplishments during placement;

~~11.8.f.~~ 11.6.6. A description of the circumstances that led to an unplanned discharge if it is not in accordance with the child's service plan, the actions taken by the agency, and the reasons for these actions; and

~~11.8.g.~~ 11.6.7. The planning team's recommendation for the most appropriate placement for the child.

§78-2-12. The Agency's Responsibilities to Foster and Adoptive Parents.

12.1. An agency shall develop and implement a ~~written description~~ handbook of the responsibilities of foster and adoptive parents to the child, to the child's family and to the agency. The handbook shall state the necessary policies, procedures, laws and forms.

12.2. An agency shall develop and implement a ~~policy procedure~~ detailing its responsibilities to foster and adoptive parents included in the service agreement between the agency and the foster or adoptive parent and the handbook. The policy procedure shall require the agency to:

~~12.2.a.~~ 12.2.1. Provide to the foster or adoptive parents a copy of the ~~policy~~ handbook that describes the responsibilities of the foster or adoptive parents and the agency in the placement of a child;

~~12.2.b.~~ 12.2.2. Provide that the agency's emergency telephone on-call system be operational at all times;

~~12.2.c.~~ 12.2.3. Inform foster or adoptive parents about the agency's grievance procedure;

~~12.2.d.~~ 12.2.4. Provide complete information about a child's background, his or her current physical, mental, emotional and behavioral functioning and any special needs prior to placement, ~~if known;~~

~~12.2.e.~~ 12.2.5. Involve foster or adoptive parents on the child's service planning team and provide them a copy of the child's ~~intake service plan~~ initial plan of care and all subsequent plans; *Note: missed title correction*

~~12.2.f.~~ 12.2.6. Provide ongoing training, guidance and support, including crisis support;

~~12.2.g.~~ 12.2.7. Provide periodic respite care for a child in a foster care placement;

~~12.2.h.~~ 12.2.8. Provide complete information about the procedures to be followed when an allegation of child abuse or neglect, or a complaint of noncompliance with licensing rules or agency policy is made;

~~12.2.i.~~ 12.2.9. Maintain the confidentiality of records according to agency policy and procedure;

~~12.2.j.~~ 12.2.10. Provide foster or adoptive parents access to their own record with the exception of reference letters and reference interviews;

~~12.2.k.~~ 12.2.11. Provide Ensure foster or adoptive parents maintain liability and personal loss coverage for loss or damage occurring as a result of their role as foster parents;

~~12.2.l.~~ 12.2.12. Give foster or adoptive parents ~~ten (10)~~ working days notice prior to removing a child, when the agency receives notice from the Department unless it is an emergency situation or court order;

~~12.2.m.~~ 12.2.13. Inform adoptive parents of the child's legal status prior to and upon the final adoption; and Legal status would be "able to be adopted", adoption occurs at the hearing which the adoptive parents must attend.

~~12.2.n.~~ 12.2.14. Inform adoptive parents of the legal procedures involved in adoption under W. Va. Code Chapter 48, Article 22 §48-22-1 et seq.

§78-2-13. Foster and Adoptive Parents' Characteristics and Criteria.

13.1. Personal Characteristics.

~~13.1.a.~~ 13.1.1. An agency shall accept applications from and recruit foster and adoptive parents with the life experiences, personal characteristics and temperament suitable for working with children in need of care and shall provide verification of marital status, if applicable, upon request.

~~13.1.b.~~ Foster and adoptive parents shall be nurturing, responsible, patient, stable, flexible, mature, healthy adults capable of meeting the individual and specific needs of children referred for placement services.

~~13.1.c.~~ Newly approved foster and adoptive parents shall be not less than twenty one (21) years of age and not more than sixty five (65) years of age unless a waiver is granted by the Secretary age 18 or older.

~~13.1.d.~~ 13.1.2. Prior to approval, each foster and adoptive parent shall provide the agency with a written or ~~tape~~-recorded detailed personal history in his or her own words which may include:

~~13.1.d.1.~~ 13.1.2.a. Childhood and family experiences, including those with extended family;

~~13.1.d.2.~~ 13.1.2.b. Education and employment history;

~~13.1.d.3.~~ 13.1.2.c. Important life experiences;

~~13.1.d.4.~~ 13.1.2.d. Values, ideals, religious beliefs, if any, and practices;

~~13.1.d.5.~~ 13.1.2.e. Health history, including use of drugs or alcohol;

~~13.1.d.6.~~ 13.1.2.f. Hobbies and interests; and

~~13.1.d.7.~~ 13.1.2.g. Parenting or child care experience.

~~13.1.e. 13.1.3.~~ At the time of consideration by an agency, foster and adoptive parents shall disclose and sign a release of information detailing any current or previous experience with other licensed agencies or the Department, ~~and if they are currently providing services to more than one (1) licensed agency, shall detail the responsibilities to each person and agency in a written statement. Foster and adoptive parents may only be certified with one agency at any given time.~~

13.2. Health Considerations.

~~13.2.a. 13.2.1.~~ Prior to approval, foster and adoptive parents shall provide the agency with the following health documentation:

~~13.2.a.1. 13.2.1.a.~~ An initial medical exam report from a physician for the foster and adoptive parents and all other household members certifying they are in good health, free of communicable diseases, and have had a tuberculin risk assessment or skin test. When TB results are positive, documentation of a physician's recommended follow-up must be on file. An agency shall require documentation of medical exams and TB risk assessment every five ~~(5)~~ years from foster parents.

~~13.2.a.2. 13.2.1.b.~~ Immunization records for the family's own children; and

~~13.2.a.3. 13.2.1.c.~~ Any previous history of or current condition involving a disability, alcoholism, or addiction for all household members.

~~13.2.b. 13.2.2.~~ ~~The agency, the Licensing Director or the Director of the Institutional Investigative Unit may require additional examinations, mental health assessments, or drug screens for indications that the safety or well-being of a child in care may be jeopardized by the physical and mental health of a household member. This cannot legally be required by the agency.~~

~~13.2.c. 13.2.3.~~ An agency shall not approve foster and adoptive parents whose health, behavior, or emotional or psychological make-up may endanger the well-being of a child, and shall develop and implement a procedure for the immediate removal of a child in placement if a concern for the child's safety or well-being is indicated.

~~13.2.d. 13.2.4.~~ A foster or adoptive parent currently in therapy shall provide a signed statement from the therapist indicating that he or she is capable of providing appropriate child care.

13.3. Living Arrangements.

~~13.3.a. 13.3.1.~~ The total number of children in a foster home, including the family's own children living in the home, may not exceed ~~six (6)~~ children.

~~13.3.b. 13.3.2.~~ An agency shall not permit a family to parent more than two ~~(2)~~ children less than two ~~(2)~~ years of age in the same home at the same time unless they are siblings.

~~13.3.c. 13.3.3.~~ Foster parents shall not care for unrelated adults for compensation in the home, unless the adults were placed for care in that home as a foster child.

~~13.3.d. 13.3.4.~~ Foster parents shall not provide day care ~~or babysitting~~ services in the home for unrelated children for compensation.

13.4. References.

~~13.4.a. 13.4.1.~~ Foster and adoptive parents shall provide the agency with the names of ~~not less than at least four (4)~~ references from persons who are not related to the parents.

~~13.4.b. 13.4.2.~~ The agency shall ensure that three (3) of the four (4) references are interviewed face-to-face or by telephone to discuss in detail their responses and any related information. The fourth reference may be in writing. Copies of these interviews shall be signed and dated by the interviewer.

~~13.4.c. 13.4.3.~~ An agency shall not approve a foster or adoptive home unless all references for the foster and adoptive parents are positive in nature.

13.5. Finances and Working Arrangement.

~~13.5.a. 13.5.1.~~ Foster and adoptive parents shall provide the agency with documentation of sufficient income and financial resources to meet their financial obligations.

~~13.5.b. 13.5.2.~~ If foster or adoptive parents are, or a single foster or adoptive parent is, employed outside the home, the agency shall approve a plan for the care and supervision of the child during work hours, ~~and the plan shall be included in the child's service plan.~~

13.6. Background Checks.

~~13.6.a. 13.6.1.~~ Prior to approval, all adult household members over the age of 18 shall complete a CIB and a "Statement of Criminal Record" form submit an application to the WV CARES unit of the Department for a criminal background check and a search of Department records of substantiated findings of abuse or neglect.

~~13.6.b. 13.6.2.~~ Prior to approval, all adult household members shall complete a "Statement of Child Abuse or Neglect History" form and a signed release of information authorizing the Department to verify the information. All offenses committed by current juvenile household members must be reported on a continual basis. These offenses shall be considered in determining the suitability of the home.

~~13.6.c. 13.6.3.~~ An agency shall not approve a home for foster care or adoption in which a household member has any convictions other than minor traffic violations. Special circumstances may allow a waiver to be granted by the Secretary. A childcare provider for a foster or adoptive family shall meet the same criteria for background checks and protective service record checks as the foster or adoptive parent or be a licensed childcare provider. Note: This does not comply with Normalcy and Prudent Parent standards. This does not allow for a youth to go to a friend's home, have an overnight visit with a friend, a babysitter to watch a child while a parent runs to the store.

13.7. Transportation. An agency shall require that:

~~13.7.a. 13.7.1.~~ Foster and adoptive parents have reliable, legal and safe transportation available.

~~13.7.b. 13.7.2.~~ All vehicles used to transport children ~~be maintained in safe running operating condition and in compliance with state law.~~

~~13.7.e. Foster and adoptive parents show proof that the vehicles used to transport children are covered by liability insurance and that all licensed drivers are included in the insurance policy.~~

~~13.7.d. 13.7.3. Foster and adoptive parents document that anyone who will transport children has a valid driver's license will use the reasonable and prudent parent standard when deciding who may transport the child.~~

~~13.7.e. Foster and adoptive parents use safety seats and seat belts when transporting children.~~

§78-2-14. Foster and Adoptive Parents' Agreement with an Agency.

14.1. Foster and adoptive parents shall enter into a cooperative agreement with an agency that includes the provisions that foster and adoptive parents shall:

~~14.1.a. 14.1.1. Permit an agency and designated Department employees to conduct announced and unannounced home visits and permit access to children in the Department's custody upon request;~~

~~14.1.b. Maintain the records and other documentation required by an agency;~~

~~14.1.c. Promptly notify an agency concerning any change in the family's circumstances;~~

~~14.1.d. 14.1.2. Immediately notify an agency about any hospitalization, surgery, accident, serious illness, death, arrest or detention by a law enforcement agency of a child, or about any other unanticipated incident involving the child placed in their home;~~

~~14.1.e. 14.1.3. Follow an agency's policy on discipline and on confidentiality of the child's records;~~

~~14.1.f. 14.1.4. Document their understanding of an agency's policy on child abuse or neglect;~~

~~14.1.g. 14.1.5. Notify an agency not less than ten (10) days before requesting the voluntary removal of a child, unless there is an emergency or other circumstance that necessitates the immediate removal of a child;~~

~~14.1.h. 14.1.6. When possible, Give give an agency not less than thirty (30) days notice when requesting the voluntary closure of their home; and~~

~~14.1.i. 14.1.7. Inform an agency of a charge, arrest or indictment of any adult household member within twenty-four (24) hours of the occurrence.~~

§78-2-15. Safety Requirements for Foster and Adoptive Homes.

15.1. An agency shall ensure that the physical facilities of a foster or adoptive home present no health or safety hazards, and that they are sufficiently clean and comfortable to ensure the well-being and respect of the family in the community. Cosmetic damages shall not be considered health or safety hazards so long as the damage does not affect the safety or wellbeing of a child.

15.2. An agency shall ensure that all approved homes have an indoor and an outdoor recreation area free of unsanitary or hazardous items and each home has toys spaces available to children which that are appropriate for their ages.

15.3. For sleeping, an agency shall ensure that:

~~15.3.a.~~ 15.3.1. Each child shall have an individual bed that is not a cot or roll away bed;

~~15.3.b.~~ 15.3.2. A maximum of four (4) children may share a bedroom;

~~15.3.c.~~ 15.3.3. A child shall not share a bedroom or a bed with an adult, or a child of the opposite sex. A child less than two (2) years old may temporarily share a bedroom ~~only after the agency has obtained the written approval of the Department;~~

~~15.3.d.~~ 15.3.4. A child's bedroom may not be used for any other purpose; ~~and~~

~~15.3.e.~~ 15.3.5. A child's bedroom located in the attic or basement shall meet the same standards as all bedrooms in the home; and

15.3.6. Notwithstanding the above, a dedicated sleeping space as appropriate for the child's needs and age shall be permitted so long as it is similar to the sleeping spaces for other household members.

15.4. An agency shall ensure that the foster or adoptive home has an operative telephone which may be a land-line or cellular service; alternative devices ~~devices~~ such as citizen band radios ~~and cellular telephones~~, must be approved prior to use. In the event having a telephone is contrary to a family's religious beliefs, the agency shall ensure that emergency situations can be adequately addressed and that appropriate contacts can be made with the family and the child in a timely manner.

15.5. An agency shall ensure that household items including cleaning supplies, toxic or flammable materials, medicines, and non-refrigerated alcoholic beverages that may be hazardous to a child are stored in areas inaccessible to children.

15.6. An agency shall ensure that weapons, related attachments and ammunition are stored in a locked container inaccessible to children.

15.7. ~~An agency shall ensure that electrical and fire prevention safety inspections by the agency require~~ shall require a fire safety plan with the following:

~~15.7.a.~~ 15.7.1. That a home has a fire escape plan that includes a diagram of the rooms, the escape routes, and an outside meeting place;

~~15.7.b.~~ 15.7.2. That all age appropriate children will be walked through the fire escape plan and route with the foster or adoptive parent within ~~twenty-four (24)~~ hours of placement;

~~15.7.c.~~ 15.7.3. That a battery operated smoke detector be located near a child's bedroom;

~~15.7.d.~~ 15.7.4. That a fire extinguisher of a minimum of five (5) pounds be located in the kitchen;

~~15.7.e.~~ 15.7.5. That outlets and plug-in extensions, and kitchen, heating and other electric appliances have standard UL approved safety features and be clear of combustible materials;

~~15.7.f.~~ 15.7.6. That electrical circuits be protected by a maximum twenty-{20} amp fuse or circuit breaker; and conform to reasonable safety standards; and

~~15.7.g.~~ 15.7.7. That an operative flashlight be easily accessible for emergency lighting.

15.8. An agency shall ensure that all mobile homes under consideration for placement homes are manufactured after 1976.

15.9. An agency shall ensure that non-municipal water used in a home is tested and determined to be safe.

15.10. An agency shall ensure that children are not housed in detached housing or unapproved rooms.

15.11. An agency shall ensure that hot water heaters have a safety valve and supply sufficient hot water to adequately meet household requirements.

15.12. An agency shall ensure that all animals owned by the foster or adoptive parents that come in contact with a child in placement are vaccinated as required by state law.

§78-2-16. Comprehensive Home Study.

16.1. An agency shall conduct a comprehensive written home study with the prospective foster or adoptive parents and all household members prior to placing a child in the home including a minimum of one {1} individual in-person interview for each parent and two {2} joint interviews.

16.2. An agency shall write a narrative report on the home study that lists the contact dates, times, locations and participants, and is signed and dated by the agency employee who conducted it and the agency director, or his or her designee.

16.3. The study shall describe and evaluate aspects of the home and family and shall include:

~~16.3.a.~~ 16.3.1. The composition of the household and intra-family relationships;

~~16.3.b.~~ 16.3.2. The family's attitudes, values and level of understanding of child development and sex education;

~~16.3.c.~~ 16.3.3. The family decision making process, including descriptive examples;

~~16.3.d.~~ 16.3.4. The manner in which the family handles conflict, stress, and frustration, including descriptive examples;

~~16.3.e.~~ 16.3.5. Individual and family hobbies, recreation, community activities, and social life;

~~16.3.f.~~ 16.3.6. The family's values and attitudes and how they relate in the community and to religious, ethnic and cultural differences;

~~16.3.g.~~ 16.3.7. Each parent's personal history, attitudes, feelings, and values;

~~16.3.h.~~ 16.3.8. The parent's financial situation;

~~16.3.i.~~ 16.3.9. The parent's motivation to become foster or adoptive parents;

~~16.3.j.~~ 16.3.10. The family's attitudes about having a foster child in the home, and about a foster child's biological parents and family;

~~16.3.k.~~ 16.3.11. An account of discipline methods discussed with the family including:

~~16.3.k.1.~~ 16.3.11.a. Methods acceptable to the agency; and

~~16.3.k.2.~~ 16.3.11.b. The family's attitude about discipline and their past experiences with discipline methods;

~~16.3.l.~~ 16.3.12. A summary of the agency's discussion of the multiple aspects of foster child care including the circumstances surrounding placement of a child in foster care, the family's expectations of a foster child's presence in the home, anticipated problem situations and coping skills, and possible reactions of the child placed;

~~16.3.m.~~ 16.3.13. An assessment of the adoptive parent's ability and willingness to make a lifetime commitment to the adopted child, and their understanding of the legal rights of the adopted child;

~~16.3.n.~~ 16.3.14. A summary of the agency's discussion with the adoptive parents about who would become the adopted child's guardian if both of the adopted parents died;

~~16.3.o.~~ 16.3.15. An account of the agency's discussion with the adoptive parents about open adoption;

~~16.3.p.~~ 16.3.16. The agency's discussion with the adoptive parents about health insurance coverage for the adoptive child before the adoption is finalized;

~~16.3.q.~~ 16.3.17. The agency's discussion with the adoptive parents about adopting a child with special needs, subsidies and the availability of community resources; and

~~16.3.r.~~ 16.3.18. A statement of the number, ages and gender of children desired by the foster or adoptive parents.

16.4. The home study shall identify the foster or adoptive parents' strengths, attributes, abilities, weaknesses, potential problem areas, or concerns as the basis for approval.

16.5. The home study shall make a recommendation regarding the number, ages, and gender of children for which the home may be approved for placement and any other special conditions or circumstances that may apply.

§78-2-17. Approval or Denial of a Foster or Adoptive Home for Placement.

All employees who participated in the home study process shall be involved in the approval or denial of the home for placement, shall set the conditions or circumstances of the approval or denial, and shall notify the family in writing of one of the following:

17.1. Notification of Approval. An agency shall provide foster or adoptive parents with a certification of the approval of their home for placement, including the names of the foster or adoptive parents approved, the home address, the date of approval, the number, ages, and gender of children for which approval is given, and any other conditions placed on the approval. The certification expires ~~one (1) year~~ three years from the date of issuance unless it is revoked;

17.2. Notification of Denial. An agency shall provide foster or adoptive parents with written notification of the denial that includes the reason for the denial; or

17.3. Notice of Revocation. An agency shall provide foster or adoptive parents with written notification of revocation of the status of approval that includes the revocation date and the reason for the revocation.

17.4. An agency shall not deny a foster or adoptive parent a certification of approval of their home for placement on the basis of age, marital status, race, religion, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.

~~§78-2-18. Approval or Denial of an Adoptive Home for Placement.~~

~~An agency shall provide adoptive parents with written notification of the approval or denial of their home for placement, including the date of approval or denial, the number, ages, and gender of children for which approval is given, any other conditions for approval identified in the home study, or the reason for denial.~~

~~§78-2-19. Evaluations Re-Certification for Approved Foster and Adoptive Parents.~~

~~19.1. 18.1. For Foster Parents.~~ An agency shall re-evaluate foster or adoptive parents annually every three years and complete a narrative summary that includes:

~~19.1.a. 18.1.1.~~ The names, ages, and lengths of stay of the children placed with the foster or adoptive parents and the children's reasons for leaving;

~~19.1.b. 18.1.2.~~ An assessment of the foster or adoptive parents' ability to implement the children's service plans and any changes in the family's circumstances;

~~19.1.c. 18.1.3.~~ An assessment of the foster or adoptive parents' attitudes on foster care, the foster child's biological family, and the agency;

~~19.1.d. 18.1.4.~~ An assessment of the foster or adoptive parents' strengths and weaknesses;

18.1.5. Ensure continued compliance with all Criminal History Background Check requirements;

~~19.1.e. 18.1.6. A recommendation~~ Requirements for any changes in the conditions of approval; and

~~19.1.f. 18.1.7.~~ The dates and signatures of the employee who wrote the evaluation re-certification and the agency director or his or her designee.

~~19.2.~~ 18.2. An agency shall renew a foster or adoptive family's certificate of approval upon the successful completion of the annual evaluation re-certification process.

~~19.3.~~ 18.3. For foster or ~~Adoptive Parents~~ adoptive parents who have not had a child placed with them, an agency shall evaluate them annually every three years and complete a narrative summary that includes:

~~19.3.a.~~ 18.3.1. An update of each of the parent's biographies, and any changes in their circumstances or attitudes about adoption;

~~19.3.b.~~ 18.3.2. ~~A recommendation~~ Requirements for any changes in the foster or adoptive parents' conditions of approval; and

~~19.3.c.~~ 18.3.3. The dates and signatures of the employee who wrote the evaluation and the agency director or his or her designee.

18.4. An agency shall complete an annual safety assessment for each foster or adoptive parent that includes:

18.4.1. Documentation of 12 hours of in-service training completed;

18.4.2. Home environment check;

18.4.3. Documentation of an emergency response plan updated annually;

18.4.4. Review of any investigation of the family or the home;

18.4.5. Review of any corrective action plan or any non-compliance issue;

18.4.6. Review of any changes in the home or with the family, including but not limited to financial or employment status, home composition, home structure and environment, and health issues.

~~§78-2-20.~~ §78.2.19. Training for Foster or Adoptive Parents.

~~20.1.~~ 19.1. For Approved Foster or Adoptive Parents.

~~20.1.a.~~ 19.1.1. As a condition of approval, an agency shall require that each foster parent participate in specified approved pre-service training curriculum.

~~20.1.b.~~ 19.1.2. An agency shall develop and implement a written plan for the orientation, annual in-service training, and child-specific training for foster or adoptive parents.

~~20.1.c.~~ 19.1.3. An agency shall document in the foster or adoptive parents' record the date, subject and brief description of the training, its duration, the format of the training and the name and title of the training instructor, if applicable.

~~20.1.d.~~ 19.1.4. Prior to the placement of a child, the agency shall complete foster parent orientation training on the placement process, the agency's services and programs, legal aspects of foster care and adoption, the agency's discipline policies, behavior management, crisis de-escalation and

intervention, ~~and~~ first aid training, including cardiac pulmonary resuscitation, the lifelong implications of adoption, normalcy, reasonable prudent parent standards, and the dangers of trafficking.

~~20.1.e.~~ 19.1.5. In addition to orientation training, an agency shall provide foster or adoptive parents with a minimum of ~~fifteen~~ {15} hours of ongoing training during the first year of approval.

~~20.1.f.~~ 19.1.6. After the first year of approval, an agency shall provide foster parents with a minimum of ~~twelve~~ {12} hours of ongoing annual training in addition to training in first aid and cardiac pulmonary resuscitation.

~~20.1.g.~~ 19.1.7. An agency shall provide child-specific training to assist foster or adoptive parents in implementing a child's service plan or a specific treatment objective.

~~20.2. For Approved Adoptive Parents.~~

~~20.2.a.~~ As a condition of approval, an agency shall require that each adoptive parent participates in a specified training curriculum.

~~20.2.b.~~ An agency shall develop and implement a written plan for the training of adoptive parents, including pre-placement training and child-specific training.

~~20.2.c.~~ An agency shall document in the adoptive parents' record the date, subject and brief description of the training, its duration, and the name and title of the training instructor.

~~20.2.d.~~ An agency shall develop a program-specific training curriculum.

~~§78-2-21.~~ §78-2-20. Foster or Adoptive Child Placement and Home Closure Information.

~~21.1.~~ 20.1. Presentation of a Child to Prospective Foster or Adoptive Parents. An agency shall develop and implement a written protocol procedure for the presentation introduction of a child to the prospective foster or adoptive parents for planned placements that includes the following provisions:

~~21.1.a.~~ 20.1.1. Prior to proceeding with the placement, the agency shall give a complete non-identifying description of the child with all available information to the prospective foster or adoptive parents;

~~21.1.b.~~ 20.1.2. Upon request, the agency shall have a profile available for the prospective foster or adoptive parents;

~~21.1.c.~~ 20.1.3. The agency shall set a time frame for a decision by the prospective foster or adoptive parents about proceeding with the placement; and

~~21.1.d.~~ 20.1.4. The agency shall document this process in the child's and the prospective foster or adoptive parents' records.

~~21.2.~~ 20.2. Emergency Child Placements in Prospective Foster Care. An agency shall establish a protocol procedure for emergency placements that includes the following provisions:

~~21.2.a. 20.2.1.~~ At the time of placement the agency shall provide as much information as is known about the child to the prospective foster or adoptive parents, and shall provide additional information when it is available or as soon as the child assessment is completed;

~~21.2.b. 20.2.2.~~ An agency shall identify the needs and strengths of the child; and *Note: This is an emergency placement. The Child Placing Agency has little to no information regarding the child.*

~~21.2.c. 20.2.3.~~ An agency shall document the emergency placement process in the child's and the foster or adoptive parents' record.

~~21.3. 20.3.~~ Involuntary Closure of a Foster or Adoptive Home. An agency shall establish a protocol procedure for the involuntary closure of a foster home that includes the following provisions:

~~21.3.a. 20.3.1.~~ A set of conditions, circumstances, and reasons for closure;

~~21.3.b. 20.3.2.~~ Specific procedures to follow;

~~21.3.c. 20.3.3.~~ That written notification be provided to the foster or adoptive parents; and

~~21.3.d. 20.3.4.~~ Complete documentation of the process by the agency in the foster or adoptive parents' record.

~~§78-2-22. §78.2.21.~~ Services to Biological Parents in Private Agency Adoption Only.

~~22-1. 21.1.~~ An agency shall ensure the protection of the legal rights of a child's biological parents to whom services are provided under a protocol procedure that requires the agency to follow the procedures set forth in W. Va. Code §48-22-101, et seq.;

~~22.1.a. Comply with W. Va. Code §48-22-1, et seq., and document that the biological parents have been fully informed about their legal rights;~~

~~22.1.b. Follow a specific policy for the voluntary relinquishment of a child according to W. Va. Code Chapter 48, Article 22 and~~

~~22.1.c. Follow a specific policy for releasing information about the child, the child's biological parents, and the child's adoptive parents according to W. Va. Code Chapter 48, Article 22.~~

~~22-2. 21.2.~~ An agency that accepts custody of a child from the biological parents, whether or not the child is placed for adoption, shall ensure that the following services are provided to the biological parents:

~~22-2.a. 21.2.1.~~ Counseling regarding the reasons for considering adoption planning for the child;

~~22-2.b. 21.2.2.~~ A complete information presentation about alternatives to adoption in an objective and noncoercive manner;

~~22-2.c. 21.2.3.~~ Assistance in obtaining prenatal, maternity and postpartum care, health education, family planning services, and nutrition services; and

~~22.2.d, 21.2.4.~~ Assistance in separating from the child, in accepting the permanence of the decision, and in determining immediate plans in their lives.

21.3. An agency shall maintain records for biological parents. Each record for biological parents shall include:

21.3.1. The names, addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, social security numbers and marital status of the biological parents;

21.3.2. A description of all services and programs provided to parents;

21.3.3. Information regarding the status of parental rights including consent to adopt, determination of paternity, relinquishment of parental rights, court orders, and revocation of consent to adopt; and

21.3.4. Written agreements and authorized releases regarding the extent of information disclosure between the biological parents and their child.

~~§78-2-22.~~ §78.2.22. Department Adoption.

~~23.1.~~ 22.1. Foster or Adoptive Parents' Role In Adoption Planning. ~~If a child is in placement with foster parents, an~~ An agency shall include the foster or adoptive parents in the child's adoption planning team by:

~~23.1.a.~~ 22.1.1. Explaining the foster or adoptive parents' role in the adoption process;

~~23.1.b.~~ 22.1.2. Informing them of all plans for the child, including the child's placement planning; and

~~23.1.c.~~ 22.1.3. Providing support to them after the child has been placed in an adoptive home.

~~§78-2-23.~~ §78.2.23. Private Agency Adoption

~~23.2.~~ 23.1 Presentation of Background Information.

~~23.2.a.~~ 23.1.1. When presenting a newborn child's background information to the prospective adoptive parents, an agency shall follow a written ~~protocol~~ procedure that includes the following provisions:

~~23.2.a.1.~~ 23.1.1.a. Prior to proceeding with an adoptive placement, and agency's shall provide prospective adoptive parents with a complete verbal and written description of all available information on the biological parents' family histories and the prenatal care received by the biological mother;

~~23.2.a.2.~~ 23.1.1.b. If the agency practices open adoption, the agency shall prepare a preplacement agreement to be signed by the biological parents and the prospective adoptive parents that identifies the amount of initial or ongoing contact, and written policies and procedures defining each party's role; and

~~23.2.a.3.~~ 23.1.1.c. An agency shall establish time frames for a decision by the prospective adoptive parents about proceeding with the adoptive placement.

~~23.2.b.~~ 23.1.2. When presenting an older child's background information to the prospective adoptive parents, an agency shall follow a written ~~protocol~~ procedure that includes the following provisions:

~~23.2.b.1.~~ 23.1.2.a. Prior to proceeding with an adoptive placement, an agency shall give a complete and accurate verbal description of the child to the prospective adoptive parents;

~~23.2.b.2.~~ 23.1.2.b. An agency shall show photographs or videos of the child to the prospective adoptive parents;

~~23.2.b.3.~~ 23.1.2.c. An agency shall provide a written summary including all information available about the child to the prospective adoptive parents;

~~23.2.b.4.~~ 23.1.2.d. An agency shall arrange a meeting between the child's foster parents or other caretakers and the prospective adoptive parents if appropriate to discuss the child's day-to-day behavior; and

~~23.2.b.5.~~ 23.1.2.e. An agency shall establish time frames for a decision by the prospective adoptive parents about proceeding with the adoptive placement.

~~23.2.c.~~ 23.1.3. When presenting information about the prospective adoptive parents to the child an agency shall follow a written ~~protocol~~ procedure that includes the following provisions:

~~23.2.c.1.~~ 23.1.3.a. The agency shall present information to the child about the prospective adoptive parents by using a scrapbook created by the prospective adoptive parents about themselves; and

~~23.2.c.2.~~ 23.1.3.b. The agency shall encourage the child's foster parents to be active partners in this process.

~~23.3.~~ 23.2 Adoption Placement Planning. An agency shall establish a ~~protocol~~ procedure for placement planning that includes the following provisions:

~~23.3.a.~~ 23.2.1. Placement planning shall be guided by the needs of the child and visits prior to placement for a child older than infancy shall occur over a minimum of a two-~~(2)~~to-three ~~(3)~~ week period; and

~~23.3.b.~~ 23.2.2. The agency shall contact the prospective adoptive parents during and after the parents' visits with the child to discuss concerns, needs and successes of the child and the adoptive parents.

23.3. Intercountry Adoption Services.

23.3.1. An agency offering intercountry adoption services shall establish a written procedure that describes the process for handling intercountry placement and placement disruptions that provides for the well-being of the child, including an alternate placement plan.

~~23.3.2. An agency offering intercountry adoption services shall establish a written procedure that complies with the United States immigration laws and the laws of the sending country and protects the rights of the child and biological parents.~~

~~23.3.3. The agency shall seek legal counsel when necessary.~~

~~§78-2-24. Services Provided for Private Agency and Department Adoptions.~~

~~23.4. 24.1 Adoption Placement Services. An agency shall establish a protocol procedure for placement services that includes the following provisions:~~

~~23.4.a. 24.1.1. An agency shall provide the child's school records, medical history, and immunization records to the adoptive parents upon placement;~~

~~23.4.b. 24.1.2. The agency and the adoptive parents shall sign the adoptive service agreement upon placement; and~~

~~23.4.c. 24.1.3. The agency shall document the services offered or already provided to the child and the adoptive parents in the child's and adoptive parents' records.~~

~~23.5. 24.2 Adoption Support Services Following Placement.~~

~~23.5.a. 24.2.1. An agency shall develop and implement a written description of the support services offered following placement, which that includes:~~

~~23.5.a.1. 24.2.1.a. The goals of the support services;~~

~~23.5.a.2. 24.2.1.b. The rights and responsibilities of the agency and of the adoptive parents following placement;~~

~~23.5.a.3. 24.2.1.c. The subsidies that may be available;~~

~~23.5.a.4. 24.2.1.d. Time frames for contact and visits following the placement that shall include:~~

~~23.5.a.4.A. 24.2.1.d.1. An initial telephone contact within seventy-two (72) hours of placement and an initial visit within one (1) week of placement;~~

~~23.5.a.4.B. 24.2.1.d.2. A minimum of six (6) visits during the placement, at least four (4) of which are in the home of the adoptive parents;~~

~~23.5.a.4.C. 24.2.1.d.3. In a two-parent family, both parents involved in at least three (3) visits;~~

~~23.5.a.4.D. 24.2.1.d.4. Additional visits on a frequency determined by the needs of the child and the adoptive parents;~~

~~23.5.a.5.~~ 24.2.1.e. Visits with all household members, and the child shall be observed during each visit; and

~~23.5.a.6.~~ 24.2.1.f. If the child is old enough to carry on a conversation, an interview with him or her in private during each visit;

~~23.5.b.~~ 24.2.2. An agency shall continue to provide support services for a minimum of six (6) months or longer until permanent placement of the child is achieved; if the child is in the adoptive home as a foster care placement, the period of support services can include the time spent in the adoptive home in foster care;

~~23.5.c.~~ 24.2.3. An agency shall provide a final visit with the adoptive family to review the adoption process prior to finalizing the adoption.

~~23.5.d.~~ 24.2.4. An agency shall document all activities during the placement period in the child's and adoptive parents' records.

~~23.6.~~ 24.3 Disruption of an Adoptive Placement. An agency shall establish a ~~protocol~~ procedure to follow when a disruption in an adoptive placement is being considered or appears imminent that includes a requirement that the agency:

~~23.6.a.~~ 24.3.1. Train employees to recognize the circumstances that can lead to the disruption of an adoptive placement;

~~23.6.b.~~ 24.3.2. Specify the roles and responsibilities of the agency and the adoptive parents during the process of disruption and the planning for a subsequent placement for the child;

~~23.6.c.~~ 24.3.3. Offer counseling to the child according to his or her needs in dealing with the disruption; and

~~23.6.d.~~ 24.3.4. Document the planning and services provided during a disruption in the adoptive parents' and child's records.

~~23.7.~~ 24.4 Placement of the Child After Disruption. An agency shall establish a ~~protocol~~ procedure to follow for subsequent placement after a disruption of the adoptive placement that includes the agency:

~~23.7.a.~~ 24.4.1. Making every effort to find another adoptive placement for the child and doing everything possible to assist and support the child in adjusting to a new placement;

~~23.7.b.~~ 24.4.2. Giving complete information about the child to subsequent foster or adoptive parents prior to their making a decision to proceed with the new placement that includes:

~~23.7.b.1.~~ 24.4.2.a. The nature of the disruption, the extent of the difficulties that resulted from the disruption and the child's reaction to the disruption;

~~23.7.b.2.~~ 24.4.2.b. When possible, a meeting with the previous adoptive parents to learn about the child; and how separation and loss might affect a child's behavior; and

~~23.7.c.~~ 24.4.3. Documenting the planning and services provided during a placement after disruption in the subsequent foster or adoptive parents' and child's records.

~~23.8.~~ 24.5 Finalization of the Adoption. An agency shall establish a written ~~protocol~~ procedure that conforms with W. Va. Code ~~Chapter 48, Article 22 §48-22-1, et seq.~~ for the finalization of an adoption that includes the following provisions:

~~23.8.a.~~ 24.5.1. A description of the process of finalizing an adoption;

~~23.8.b.~~ 24.5.2. A description of the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in finalizing an adoption; and

~~23.8.c.~~ 24.5.3. The written consent of a child ~~twelve (12)~~ years or older to the adoption.

~~23.9.~~ 24.6 Post-Legal Adoption Services. An agency shall establish a ~~protocol~~ procedure for the post-legal adoption services it offers, that includes the following provisions:

~~23.9.a.~~ 24.6.1. Adoption subsidy assistance;

~~23.9.b.~~ 24.6.2. Counseling assistance for adoption issues, including search and contact;

~~23.9.c.~~ 24.6.3. Information about the biological family and birth history;

~~23.9.d.~~ 24.6.4. Education and support services for adoptive families;

~~23.9.e.~~ 24.6.5. Referrals for needed community services; and

~~23.9.f.~~ 24.6.6. Information and counseling concerning the Mutual Consent Adoption Registry.

~~23.10. Inter-country Adoption Services.~~

~~23.10.a. An agency offering intercountry adoption services shall establish a written protocol that describes the process for handling intercountry placement and placement disruptions that provides for the well being of the child, including an alternate placement plan.~~

~~23.10.b. An agency offering intercountry adoption services shall establish a written protocol that complies with the United States immigration laws and the laws of the sending country and protects the rights of the child and biological parents.~~

~~23.10.c. The agency shall seek legal counsel when necessary.~~

~~§78-2-24.~~ §78-2-25. Transitional Living Services Program, Supervised Setting for Children Living Independently.

~~24.1.~~ 25.1. An agency shall develop and implement a ~~manual of policies, procedures and forms for transitional living services, that will be provided to children transitioning from foster care, available to all employees~~ that includes the following:

~~24.1.a.~~ 25.1.1. The information and documentation required under this licensing rule;

~~24.1.b. 25.1.2.~~ The date of implementation, review and revision of each policy, procedure or form; and

~~24.1.c. The reviews and revisions of the policies, procedures, and forms when required for legislative changes or a minimum of every five (5) years, and a provision that an agency encourage employees to participate in the review and revision process.~~

~~24.2. 25.2.~~ An agency shall operate in accordance with its written policies and procedures.

~~24.3. 25.3.~~ An agency shall establish eligibility criteria for transitional living services that include:

~~24.3.a. 25.3.1.~~ Policies and provisions developed by an agency based on Department requirements that specifies the services that will be provided to children transitioning to adulthood;

~~24.3.b. 25.3.2.~~ Age requirements for child or young adult sixteen (16) years of age for receiving transitional living placement services, [s seventeen (17) years of age, but not more than 26 years of age for training-based living arrangements and not more than twenty-one (21) years of age for scattered-site living arrangements;

~~24.3.c. 25.3.3.~~ Written permission from the child's his or her parents or guardian for a child less than eighteen (18) years of age to enter a transitional scattered-site living arrangement;

~~24.3.d. 25.3.4.~~ A written service agreement with a child or young transitioning adult entering a transitional living arrangement, and an alternate placement plan for a child or young adult who is unsuccessful in an independent living arrangement;

~~24.3.e. 25.3.5.~~ A determination by an agency that a child or young adult has lived in a stable placement for three (3) months immediately preceding consideration shown that he or she is stable, mature and responsible enough for entry into a the determined level of transitional living arrangement;

~~24.3.f. 25.3.6.~~ A written life skills assessment by an agency of a child's or young adult's life skills prior to placing him or her in a transitional living arrangement and renewed annually; and

~~24.3.g. 25.3.7. Attendance or completion~~ A written transition plan developed with the child that identifies of an educational or training program, and either or employment or pursuance of employment by the child or young adult in transitional living.

~~24.4. 25.4.~~ An agency shall develop, approve and maintain in the case record assist the child in the development of a monthly budget for each child or young adult that outlines income, savings, and expenditures.

~~24.5. 25.5.~~ The Department agency and child shall approve any roommates determine if a roommate is appropriate for a child or young adult prior to placement in transitional living settings. The roommate must be able to support his or herself and contribute at least one-half of the living expenses for the scattered-site setting.

~~24.6. 25.6.~~ An agency shall provide additional specific, service training to employees providing transitional living services prior to their direct work with a child or young adult.

~~24.7.~~ 25.7. An agency shall ~~outline~~ document face-to-face contact and hours spent with a child or young adult in a transitional living services ~~setting in a section~~ setting in the service plan that ~~includes~~ meet the child's needs and program level.

~~24.7.a.~~ A range of two (2) to five (5) face-to-face contacts in the child's or young adult's residence per week; and

~~24.7.b.~~ A range of four (4) to six (6) telephone contacts per week between a child or young adult and an assigned agency employee.

~~24.8.~~ 25.8. After a child or young adult is in a transitional living placement, an agency shall assess the child's or young adult's progress in acquiring basic living skills at a minimum of once every six (6) months.

~~24.9.~~ 25.9. An agency shall develop and implement policies and procedures to ensure that any child or young adult in a transitional living setting receives training and guidance on appropriate health screening and services, including medical and dental screening and services.

~~24.10.~~ 25.10. An agency shall develop policies and follow procedures for assisting child in searching for an appropriate the dwellings dwelling that will be used for transitional as a scattered-site living setting that includes the following provisions that ensure:

~~24.10.a.~~ 25.10.1. That an agency assist a child or young adult to find a A safe, affordable dwelling;

~~24.10.b.~~ That a dwelling complies with the State Fire Code and applicable health, zoning and building codes;

~~24.10.c.~~ 25.10.2. That a A dwelling has a working telephone or other means of communication in an emergency, and indoor cooking and an appropriate water source for cooking, cleaning and bathing facilities;

~~24.10.d.~~ That a dwelling is recognizable as residential accommodations;

~~24.10.e.~~ That a dwelling does not house more children or young adults in a transitional living program than the number the dwelling can accommodate, and the number of transitional living residents in a single apartment does not exceed two (2); and

~~24.10.f.~~ That a child or young adult is not placed in a transient or overnight facility such as a rescue mission, motel, nonresidential hotel, emergency shelter, or tourist home.

~~24.11.~~ 25.11. An agency shall ensure the provision of emergency services to child or young adult while in transitional living that include develop policies for assisting the child in emergencies and develop a plan that includes the following:

~~24.11.a.~~ 25.11.1. A twenty-four (24) hour a day, seven (7) day a week access to emergency services;

~~24.11.b.~~ 25.11.2. A plan developed by the agency and child for emergency medical care and emergency evacuation;

~~24.11.c. Training by the agency prior to or upon placement on how to use the agency's emergency telephone answering system; and~~

~~24.11.d. An agency employee designated to respond in person to the child or young adult within forty-five (45) minutes of the child's or young adult's call for assistance.~~

~~24.12. 25.12. The planning team shall establish a minimum length of time to agency shall develop policies and procedure on how it will determine the child's or young adult's level of successful functioning in the transitional living program setting before he or she may be discharged.~~

~~24.13. 25.13. The planning team shall agency shall develop policies and procedures on developing an aftercare plan plans for children prior to discharge.~~

~~25.14. The agency shall develop a grievance procedure for expressing and resolving the child's complaints or concerns.~~

~~25.15. The agency shall provide employees and children placed in a scattered-site setting or receiving transitioning services an opportunity to participate in the review or revision process of policies, protocols or procedures.~~

~~§78-2-25. Community Re-entry Program.~~

~~25.1. For children placed in a community re-entry program, an agency shall develop an operating manual, made available to employees and to applicants seeking employment that includes:~~

~~25.1.a. The policies, procedures and forms for the plan of operation;~~

~~25.1.b. A complete and detailed description of the range of services offered and the process for implementing them;~~

~~25.1.c. The information and documentation required to be compiled by this licensing rule;~~

~~25.1.d. The date of implementation, review or revision of the policy, procedure or form; and~~

~~25.1.e. A description of the grievance procedure for expressing and resolving complaints or concerns.~~

~~25.2. An agency shall review and revise the policies, procedures and forms for the community re-entry program when required by legislative changes or at the time of application for a license or license renewal.~~

~~25.3. An agency shall provide employees and children or young adults placed in a community re-entry program an opportunity to participate in the review or revision process.~~

~~25.4. An agency shall operate in accordance with its written policies and procedures.~~

~~25.5. An agency shall implement eligibility criteria and policies defined by the Department for the community re-entry program that include:~~

~~25.5.a. A child or young adult shall be a minimum of sixteen (16) and not more than twenty-one (21) years of age;~~

~~25.5.b. During placement in a re-entry setting, a child or young adult shall have a comprehensive evaluation to determine vocational interests, aptitude, basic life skills and psychological and social potential for self-support;~~

~~25.5.c. A child or young adult in a community re-entry program shall be involved in an educational or training program, life skills classes, counseling, and psychological evaluations;~~

~~25.5.d. A scheduled plan for free time shall include, but is not limited to, community service, job preparation, driver's education, or basic living skills development;~~

~~25.5.e. A child or young adult in a community re-entry program shall be in the custody of the Department and referred by a Department employee;~~

~~25.5.f. The Department shall approve roommates of children or young adults in community re-entry settings before placement; and~~

~~25.5.g. An agency shall provide an alternate placement for the child or young adult who does not meet the level of success as determined by agency criteria.~~

~~25.6. An agency shall develop and implement policies to ensure that medical, dental and mental health services are provided to children and young adults in the community re-entry program as required by the Child's Case Plan and the Health Check Program, including health screening, preventive care and emergency medical services.~~

~~25.7. An agency shall provide to the children or young adults in the community re-entry program, his or her parents or guardian, and the placing worker a copy of the agency's policies and procedures regarding re-entry including a written description of the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved in the placement.~~

~~25.8. An agency shall keep accurate, complete, and up-to-date records on each child or young adult in placement.~~

~~25.9. The minimum age of direct care employees for the community re-entry program shall be twenty-five (25) years of age.~~

~~25.10. An agency shall develop a protocol to provide onsite supervision to children and young adults twenty-four (24) hours a day seven (7) days a week by designated employees, and additional support services as required for children or young adults with certain identified behaviors to ensure their health and safety.~~

~~25.11. An agency shall ensure that a dwelling in the community re-entry program;~~

~~25.11.a. is hazard-free and functional inside and around its premises;~~

~~25.11.b. is equipped and maintained in a manner that reflects the agency's positive regard for children and young adults in placement, and is suited to a child or young adult's individual needs;~~

~~25.11.c. Does not include a transient or overnight type facility, including rescue missions, motels, hotels, emergency shelters, and tourist homes;~~

~~25.11.d. Complies with applicable state and local fire, safety, zoning, building, and health codes; and~~

~~25.11.e. Is equipped with a working telephone with emergency numbers posted by it, a first-aid kit, and safe and secure storage for medication and toxic substances.~~

~~25.12. An agency shall establish a written protocol for dealing with emergencies, shall train employees, children or young adults in emergency protocol, including the use of the agency's emergency telephone service and procedures prior to or at the time of placement, and shall document the training in the employees and children's records.~~

§78-2-26. Grievance Procedure.

An agency shall develop and implement a written grievance procedure for children and foster, adoptive, and biological families. The procedure shall be written in clear and simple language and shall include at least the following provisions:

26.1. An agency shall ensure that children and their biological families can express concerns or make complaints without fear of retaliation;

26.2. The grievance procedure shall ensure due process; and

26.3. The child's primary case manager shall explain the procedure to the child and his or her biological parents or guardian upon admission and obtain written acknowledgment that an explanation of the procedure has been provided.

§78-2-27. Administrative Due Process.

Any person aggrieved by an order or other action by the Secretary based on this rule, or W. Va. Code §49-2-105 may make a written request to the Secretary within ~~thirty~~ (30) days in accordance with the ~~Division-Department of Health and Human Resources rule, "Rules of Procedure for Contested Case Hearings and Declaratory Rulings," 64CSR1, a copy of which may be obtained from the Secretary of State. In the alternative, foster parents or foster children may file a complaint with the Foster Care Ombudsman.~~