

*** RENEWAL LICENSING RESOURCE DOCUMENT ***

FAMILY FOSTER HOMES

October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020

Directions: Authorized licensing agents will need to review the new rules with all currently licensed foster parents. Below you will find the new items that are now in the initial licensing process that shall be addressed with the currently licensed foster parents for safety and compliance.

Provider Name(s)

Authorized Licensing Agent

Initial Home Study Foster Care for Children (SFN 889)

Does the applicant meet the functional literacy requirements? Yes No

In order to meet compliance, a foster family must not only be able to demonstrate their ability to read licensing policy, handbook, child-care plans, and medication labels, but also communicate with the child placed in the home, his/her case manager, therapist, school teachers, while attending and understanding required training, etc.

Are immunizations up to date for Applicant(s)? Yes No NA

Are immunizations up to date for others living in the home? Yes No NA

Self-disclosure from the family (no copies of the immunizations required on file). It is recommended all members of the household be up to date on immunizations as recommended by a health care professional, unless the immunization is contrary to the person's health as documented by a licensed health care professional or the person provides written documentation that immunizations are against the person's religious, philosophical, or moral beliefs.

NOTE: The department may require foster parents specializing in the care of medically fragile infants and children to receive specific vaccines if the needs of the child require such precaution, such as the influenza or pertussis.

Discussed the new policy regarding Financial Stability (SFN 843). Yes No

An applicant must be financially stable with reasonable income or resources available to the home in order to properly care for children.

Any member of the household with concerns regarding use of alcohol or drugs?

Yes No

If yes, explain:

A person residing in the home, except a foster child or ward of the court, may not exhibit symptoms of substance abuse or emotional instability that inhibit their ability to care for children. If symptoms of substance use or emotional instability inhibit the ability to care for children occur in a family foster home for children at the time when child is in long-term placement, every effort should be made to keep the placement intact if the household member of the foster home is seeking treatment. (NDAC 75-03-14-04).

Do the foster parent/s have experience with counseling services or therapy? Yes No

New question on the initial to gain an understanding of the applicants knowledge of counseling services and (if personal experience) can they articulate strengths/challenges noted that may assist or provide barriers to fostering a child in therapy.

Do the foster parent/s know how to access services if needed for self or others in the home?

Yes No

New question on the initial to gain an understanding of the applicants knowledge of counseling services, recognizing signs of a child needing therapeutic interventions, services and if so how to access services needed in their own community to best support fostering a child.

Does anyone smoke/vape in your home?	Yes	No
<i>If yes: Discuss restrictions including to not smoke/vape in an enclosed area with a foster child (house, camper, vehicle). Ask if it will be difficult to follow restrictions.</i>		
Is home/property clean, neat and free from hazards, insects, and rodents?	Yes	No
Is there proper trash disposal?	Yes	No
<i>Model licensing standards re-emphasizes the family foster home and premises must be clean, neat, and free from hazards that jeopardize health and safety. Have proper trash disposal and be free from rodent and insect infestation.</i>		
Are there security cameras inside or outside the foster home?	Yes	No
<i>If a foster family has security cameras inside or outside of their home, they must disclose this information to the licensing worker upon purchase of the security system or during any home study visit. Licensing workers should be informed of where the cameras are positioned, why they are in use, when they are recording, who is responsible for the camera(s) and what happens to the footage. See policy for further details.</i>		
Are the homes doors in compliance?	Yes	No
Updated policy to follow rule 622-05-25-25 1. Exterior doors must be maintained in such a manner which would permit easy exit. 2. Interior doors should be designed to prevent children from being trapped. 3. Every closet door must be one that can be opened from the inside. Bathroom doors must also be able to open in/outside		
Are the bedrooms in compliance?	Yes	No
Updated policy to follow rule 622-05-25-20 1. All sleeping rooms must have an accessible window to exit, allow for proper light and ventilation, smoke alarms 2. Basement bedrooms must be equipped with more than one exit. 3. Foster children in basement sleeping rooms must be able to demonstrate their ability to depart from all exits. 4. The family foster home for children must have adequate sleeping rooms to accommodate the size of the household including an individual bed and bedding for each foster child to sleep comfortably. 5. Co-sleeping or bed sharing with a foster child is prohibited		
How many beds are available in the home?		
How many persons are sleeping in each bedroom room?		
Detail if more than two children reside in one bedroom: <i>Ages, gender, sleeping spaces, behaviors, risks:</i> <i>It is recommended that children over the age of 6 do not share bedrooms with children of the opposite gender. If needed, custodial case managers shall help foster parents determine appropriate sleep space upon placement into the home.</i>		
Discussed swimming pool barriers + Water safety	Yes	No
<i>Review water safety policy (boating/life jackets) and provide the swimming pool handout.</i>		
Discussed locked hot tub- water safety	Yes	No
<i>Hot tubs on the premises of a foster home must have safety code covers that are locked when not in use.</i>		
Water temperature no greater than 120 degrees?	Yes	No
<i>The family foster home shall ensure the water temperature in the home is monitored for safety. The water temperature settings should not exceed 120 degrees F. The authorized licensing agent, initially and annually thereafter, shall check the settings on the water heater to ensure proper water temperature is maintained.</i>		
** POLICY – NOT ON HOME STUDY **		
Does a household member prescribed medical marijuana?	Yes	No
<i>Household members prescribed medical marijuana must notify the authorized licensing agent. Policy details the need for an assessment to consider the medical diagnosis requiring the use of medical marijuana, like any controlled substance.</i>		

Is the home must be equipped with adequate light, heat, ventilation, and plumbing for safe and comfortable occupancy?	Yes	No
Does the family foster home have a properly working sink, refrigerator, stove and oven in the kitchen and at least one sink, toilet, and bathtub or shower in the bathroom?	Yes	No
Is the family foster home in compliance with state and local zoning requirements?	Yes	No
Each city is different, this rule was historically in place to ensure that a family residence was in a residential community of the city boundaries, etc. (NDAC 75-03-14-03)		
Discussed proper storage of medication, poisonous materials, cleaning supplies, etc.	Yes	No
<i>The family foster home for children shall properly store medications, alcohol, poisonous materials, cleaning supplies, and other hazardous materials to prevent access to children, as appropriate for age and development of the children in placement. Present the proper storage handout.</i>		
Does the foster parent have a conceal and carry permit?	Yes	No
<i>Reminder that firearms must be kept in locked storage or trigger locks must be used. Ammunition must be kept separate from firearms. A foster parent with a concealed weapons permit must follow the regulations set forth by NDCC 62.1-04. For example, when the firearm is being carried, it must be secured on that person and cannot be laying freely on the console of the vehicle.</i>		
Does the home have a telephone available for use?	Yes	No
<i>The family foster home for children must have an operational telecommunications device, and residents of the home must have access to it.</i>		
Discussed safe and reliable transportation.	Yes	No
<i>The family foster home for children shall have reliable, legal, and safe transportation available to transport children in placement.</i>		
Reviewed foster child driving rules (DN 271 and DN 310)	Yes	No
Discussed foster parent property damage claim process.	Yes	No
Discussed that co-sleeping or bed sharing with a foster child is prohibited.	Yes	No
<i>Foster parents must provide a safe sleeping space including mattress and linens for each individual child, as appropriate for the child's needs and age. Foster parents must not co-sleep or bed-share with foster children.</i>		
Is the foster parent/s relatives to the child in placement? If so, do they require a Relative Waiver (SFN 844)?	Yes	No

I have reviewed the new foster care rules and regulations with the current foster family. I will submit this resource along with the annual paperwork to the regional office.

Licensing Agent (Licensing Worker) Signature	Date
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NOTE: Foster parents licensed before October 1, 2019 are grandfathered in; meaning an initial physical examination (SFN 974) is not required on file.