

Draft Vermont Foster Care Regulations for Internal Stakeholder Review

To: Vermont Foster & Adoptive Families Association, Vermont Kin as Parents, interested Vermont foster and kinship foster parents
From: Jim Forbes, Senior Policy & Operations Manager, DCF Family Services Division
Date: January 23, 2019
Subject: Proposed Vermont Foster Care Regulations – Your Feedback is Requested

The VT DCF Family Services Division is updating its Foster Care Regulations. These have not been fully reviewed and updated since 1992. In October 2017, the Residential Licensing and Special Investigations unit (RLSI) completed an initial review. Consequently, US Congress passed the Family First Prevention Services Act in early 2018. This requires the federal government to promulgate model standards for foster care licensing. Ideas from the federal draft proposal are included within these VT proposed regulations in anticipation of final recommendations.

Please see the attached draft for your review and comment. This document shows the draft regulations and current regulations side by side. Please also note some regulations are categorized as safety related (SAF) which allows for no variance and variance allowed with agency discretion (VAR) which allows for variance consideration especially to facilitate kinship foster care.

Overview of major changes: Draft regulations are updated to...

- align with the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standards;
- encourage culturally sensitive and inclusive foster parenting;
- update bedroom requirements and encourage developmentally appropriate sleeping arrangements;
- address “vaping” and marijuana use.
- address water safety
- reflect federally proposed Model Family Foster Home Licensing Standards. Changes include, but are not limited to: variance allowance to encourage and support kinship care, immunization requirements, functional literacy and the ability to communicate with a foster child in their own language, physical exam requirements, etc.

What’s next?

Updating our foster care regulations will ultimately require us to engage in a formal legislative process on rule making. We hope to pursue this over the summer of 2019. Prior to this, however, we are sharing this internal draft with our closest stakeholders for review, conversation, and comment. Final revisions will consider responses received as well as the final federal Model Family Foster Home Licensing Standards expected to be issued next month. Please note there will also be an additional opportunity for comment during the formal rules making process noted above.

Thank you for your time reviewing these proposed Foster Care Regulations. Please provide your written feedback or direct any questions to AHS.DCFFSDFosterCareRegs@vermont.gov. Opportunity for in person meetings will be announced or scheduled as necessary.

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Category		RLSI Internal Stakeholder Draft Regulations	Safety / Variance	Current Regulations
Purpose of Regulations	010	<p>Under the Authority of 33 VSA, 3501, the Department for Children and Families is responsible for licensing foster homes.</p> <p>These regulations have been established to assure the care and safety of children who must live in homes other than their own. A license is issued if the foster home and prospective foster parent(s) meet these regulations. If the department finds the applicant(s) or foster parent(s) unwilling or unable to meet these regulations, the license will be denied or revoked.</p> <p>Regulations necessary to assure a child’s well-being cover the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The safety and adequacy of the home for the care of children; 2. The personal characteristics and social relationships of the foster parent(s) and other members of the household; 3. The commitment to foster care, and the ability and willingness of the foster family to work cooperatively in support of the child’s case plan; and 4. The ability of the foster family to provide positive, constructive experiences for all children in their care. 		<p>010 Under the Authority of 33 VSA, 3501, the Department for Children and Families is responsible for licensing foster homes.</p> <p>These regulations have been established to assure the care and safety of children who have to live in homes other than their own. A license is issued if the foster home and prospective foster parent(s) meet these regulations. If the department finds the applicant(s) or licensee(s) unwilling or unable to meet these regulations, the license will be denied or revoked.</p> <p>Regulations necessary to assure a child’s well-being cover the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.The safety and adequacy of the home for the care of children; 2.The personal characteristics and social relationships of the foster parent(s) and other members of the household; 3.The commitment to foster care, and the ability and willingness of the foster family to work cooperatively in support of the child’s case plan; and 4. The ability of the foster family to provide positive, constructive experiences for all children in their care.
Statutory Authority	020	<p>Vermont law regulating the licensing of child care facilities is set forth in Title 33 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated as follows:</p>		<p>020 Vermont law regulating the licensing of child care facilities is set forth in Title 33 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated as follows:</p>

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	<p>§ 4905. Foster care and placement licensing</p> <p>(a) A person other than an employee of a department within the Agency of Human Services shall not place any child in foster care for more than 15 consecutive days unless the person has a license from the Department to do so or is an employee of a child-placing agency licensed by that Department.</p> <p>(b) A person shall not receive, board, or keep any child in foster care for more than 15 consecutive days unless he or she has a license from the Department to do so. This subsection shall not apply to foster homes approved by a department within the Agency of Human Services or by a licensed child-placing agency, nor shall it apply to those facilities where educational or vocational training is the primary service and foster care is a supportive service only.</p> <p>(c) This section shall not restrict the right of a court, parent, guardian, or relative to place a child, nor the right of a person not in the business of providing foster care or child care to receive, board, and keep a child when a valuable consideration is not demanded or received for the child's care and maintenance. (Added 2013, No. 131 (Adj. Sess.), § 75.)</p> <p>§ 151. Licensing and registration; violations</p> <p>This subchapter shall apply to all licenses, registrations, and applications for licenses and registrations which the Commissioner or the Department may issue or grant, unless otherwise specifically provided.</p> <p>(1) The Commissioner shall adopt rules governing applications for and issuance, revocation, term, and renewal of</p>	<p>Foster Care and Placement Licensing (33 VSA, 3501)</p> <p>a. A person, other than an employee of a department within the agency of human services, shall not place any child in foster care for more than 15 consecutive days unless the person has a license from the department to do so or is an employee of a child-placing agency licensed by such department.</p> <p>b. A person shall not receive, board, or keep any child in foster care for more than 15 consecutive days unless he has a license from the department to do so. This subsection shall not apply to foster homes approved by a department within the agency of human services or by a licensed child-placing agency nor shall it apply to those facilities where educational or vocational training is the primary service and foster care is a supportive service only.</p> <p>c. This section shall not restrict the right of a court, parent, guardian, or relative to place a child, nor the right of a person not in the business of providing foster or child care to receive, board, and keep a child when a valuable consideration is not demanded or received for the child's care and maintenance.</p> <p>Administrative Provisions (33 VSA, 306)</p> <p>This subsection shall apply to all licenses and applications for licenses, which the commissioner or the department may issue or grant, unless otherwise specifically provided.</p> <p>1. The commissioner shall issue regulations governing application for, and issuance, revocation, term and renewal of licenses and</p>
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		<p>licenses and registrations. In the regulations, he or she may prescribe standards and conditions to be met, records to be kept, and reports to be filed. Licenses and registration shall be for a term of one year from issuance unless otherwise prescribed by regulation.</p> <p>(2) Premises covered by a license or registration may be visited and inspected by the Department at reasonable hours. A person who accepts a license or registration shall permit visits and inspections and examinations of the records he or she is required to keep.</p> <p>(3) A license or registration may be revoked for cause after hearing and may be suspended in situations which immediately imperil the health, safety, or well-being of persons in the care of the foster parent or registrant.</p> <p>(4) Before a license is granted, the Department shall visit and inspect the premises for which the license is requested and make further inquiry and investigation as the Commissioner may direct. Before a family child care home registration is granted, the Department shall make inquiry and investigation. Inquiry and investigation may include a visit to and inspection of the premises for which the registration is requested. Further inquiry and investigation may be made as the Commissioner may direct.</p>		<p>registration. In the regulations he may prescribe standards and conditions to be met, records to be kept, and reports to be filed. Licenses and registration shall be for a term of one year from issuance unless otherwise prescribed by regulation.</p> <p>2. Premises covered by a license or registration may be visited and inspected by the department at reasonable hours. A person who accepts a license or registration shall permit visits and inspections, and examinations of the records he is required to keep.</p> <p>3.A license or registration may be revoked for cause after hearing and may be suspended in situations that immediately imperil the health, safety, or well-being of persons in the care of the licensee or registrant.</p> <p>4.Before a license is granted, the department shall visit and inspect the premises for which the license is requested, and make further inquiry.</p>
Procedures Issuance and Renewal	031	An original license shall be valid for three years unless otherwise limited by the Licensing Authority or if the license is revoked or voluntarily closed.		030 An original license shall be valid for one year unless otherwise prescribed by the commissioner, except when the license is revoked or otherwise invalidated
	032	Renewal of a license shall occur every three years unless otherwise limited by Licensing Authority. When the home is evaluated for renewal, the Licensing Authority will review compliance with these regulations and will evaluate		031 Renewal of a license shall be on a yearly basis unless otherwise prescribed by the commissioner. When the home is evaluated for licensure, the state licensing authority will

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		how well the needs of children/youth in the care of the foster parent(s) have been met.		review compliance with these regulations and will evaluate how well the needs of children in the care of the foster parent(s) have been met.
	033	A license is valid only for the person(s) named on the license and for the premises for which the license was issued.		032 A license is valid only for the person(s) named on the license and for the premises for which the license was issued.
	034	Licensing authority may place limitations on a license. This may include a limit to provide care only for a specific child(ren) or youth.		033 The Department may place conditions of a license, including the limitation to provide care only for a specific child
	035	Licensing authority may require references for, and any other relevant information on, applicants, household members, and any person who provides care and supervision to foster children on a regular basis.		034 The state licensing authority may require any person in the household or any person who provides care and supervision to foster children on a regular basis, whether or not that person is an applicant or licensee, to submit references and to provide such other information as the state licensing authority may deem necessary.
	036	Licensing authority may, at its sole discretion, reinstate a license that has been closed in good standing within one year of said closure for the original license.		
Variances	037	Licensing authority may grant a variance from a specific regulation upon its determination that the applicant(s) or foster parent(s) will otherwise meet the intent of the regulation.		035 The state licensing authority may grant a variance from specific regulation upon its determination that the applicant or licensee with otherwise meet the goal of the regulation. A variance may contain provisions for the license
	038	A variance is valid for the duration of the license unless specified by the licensing authority. A variance may be renewed.		036 A variance is valid for the duration of the license, unless revoked or limited by the state licensing authority, and can be renewed
	FED1	Variance to any non-safety related regulation may be given at the discretion of the licensing authority to encourage the following situations: allow kinship placement; allow parenting youth to remain with child; allow siblings to remain together; allow child with established meaningful relationship to remain with family and allow family with special training to care for child with severe disabilities.		

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Denial and Revocation	039	An application for licensure may be denied or a license revoked if the applicant(s) or foster parent(s) fails to meet any licensing regulations.		037 A license may be denied or revoked if the applicant or licensee fails to meet any licensing regulations
	040	An application for licensure may be denied or a license revoked if the applicant(s), foster parent(s) or other household member(s):		038 A license may be denied or revoked if the applicant, licensee or other member of the household:
	040.1	Has been charged with or convicted of a criminal offense; or	VAR*	038.1 Has been charged with or convicted of a criminal offense; or
	040.2	Has current, unresolved problems with alcohol or other drugs; or	VAR	038.2 Has current, unresolved problems with alcohol or other chemicals; or
	040.3	Has abused or neglected a child, or other member of a vulnerable population.	VAR	038.3 Has abused or neglected a child.
	041	A license may be suspended if a situation exists in the foster home which immediately imperils the health, safety, or well-being of any person living in the home, whether that person is a foster child. Removing foster children, or restricting placement of foster child(ren) or youth, shall not be considered a suspension of the license.	VAR	039 A license may be suspended if a situation exists in the foster home, which immediately imperils the health, safety, or well-being of persons in the care of the licensee.
	042	A license may not be granted to an applicant who:		
	042.1	Holds a child care license issued by the Child Development Division; or	VAR	
	042.2	Provides in-home care for adults who are receiving mental health services and/or developmental services; or	VAR	
	043	A license may be denied, revoked, suspended, or limited if an unusually stressful situation exists in the foster home, which affects the appropriate care of children. Such situations include, but are not limited to, divorce, separation, death, unemployment, serious illness or injury, or the entry of a new household member.	VAR	040 A license may be denied, revoked, or limited if an unusually stressful situation exists in the foster home, which affects the appropriate care of the children. Such situations include, but are not limited to divorce, separation, death, unemployment, serious illness or injury, or the entry of a new member into the household
	044	When an application is denied, or a license is revoked, a written notification specifying reasons for denial or		041 When a license is denied, suspended, or revoked, a written notification specifying

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		revocation shall be forwarded to the applicant(s) or foster parent(s).		reasons for denial or revocation shall be forwarded to the applicant(s) or licensee(s).
	045	Applicant who are denied a license, or foster parents who have had their license revoked, must wait one (1) year before reapplying. The reapplication must be accompanied by documentation that the identified areas of concern that prompted the denial/revocation have been alleviated.	VAR	
Appeal Rights	046	When the licensing authority proposes suspension or revocation of a foster home license, the foster parent(s) may be offered an opportunity for a hearing with the Commissioner or Commissioners designee.		042 When the department proposes revocation of a foster home license, the licensee will be offered an opportunity for a hearing with the commissioner or the commissioner's designee prior to the effective date of this revocation.
	047	Applicant(s) for a license who is aggrieved by a denial, suspension, or revocation decision of the licensing authority will be granted a fair hearing before the Human Services Board if requested within 30 days of the licensing authority's issuance of the decision.		043 A licensee or applicant for a license who is aggrieved by a decision of the licensing unit will be granted a fair hearing before the Human Services Board if requested within 30 days of the department's issuance of the decision.
Foster Home Licensing Records	048	Licensing authority shall keep records on each applicant and foster parent. Records shall include applications, reference letters, compliance checklists, and licensing reports regarding communication with or about the applicant(s) or foster parent(s). These records are the property of the licensing authority and shall only be disclosed as set forth below.		044 The department shall keep records on each foster home applicant and licensee. Records shall include applications, reference letters, compliance checklists, licensing reports, and notes regarding communication with or about the applicant(s) or licensee(s). These records are the property of the department and shall only be disclosed as set forth below.
	049	Licensing authority shall, upon request, make available to the applicant(s) or foster parent(s) all information contained in the licensing record, except information received from third persons, such as reference letters, and information which is made confidential by law. Licensing authority shall release licensing records to third parties only upon receipt of a signed release from the applicant(s) or foster parent(s). When an applicant or foster parent is		045 The department shall, upon request, make available to the subject applicant(s) or licensee(s) all information contained in the licensing record except information received from third party persons, such as reference letters and information made confidential by law. The department shall, upon receiving a written release from the subject applicant(s) or

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		seeking an appeal hearing with the Human Services Board, the licensing authority will release the licensing record, without first requiring a signed release.		licensee(s), make available to designated third persons all information contained in the applicant's or licensee's licensing record to which he would have access.
Capacity	050	Foster parents shall not be licensed to care for more than four foster children at a time.	VAR	047 The number of foster children for whom a foster parent is licensed shall not exceed four.
				048 The number of foster children for whom a foster home is initially licensed shall not exceed two for the term of the first license
	052	A foster family shall not provide in-home care to more than two children under the age of 24-months at a given time, whether or not either of those children is a foster child.	VAR	050 There shall be no more than two children under the age of 24 months living in or regularly cared for in a foster home
	053	A foster family shall not provide in-home care to more than four children under the age of six years at any one time, whether or not any of those children is a foster child.	VAR	049 A foster family shall not provide care for more than four children under six years of age at any one time, including children residing in the home and children cared for on a part-time basis
	054	A foster family shall not provide in-home care to more than six children at a given time, whether or not any of those children is a foster child.	VAR	051 The total number of children residing in a foster home shall not exceed six.
Application and Evaluation for Licensure	029	All applicant(s) and foster parent(s) shall be at least 21 years old.	VAR	204 Primary caregivers shall be at least 21 years of age.
	030	Applicant(s) and foster parent(s) shall have a reliable, predictable means of meeting the basic living needs of all dependent household members, exclusive of foster children, without reliance on the basic foster care reimbursement.	VAR	205 Foster parents shall demonstrate that they have sufficient income to support the family, exclusive of foster children, without reliance on the basic foster care reimbursement.
	101	The applicant(s) shall submit an application in the form prescribed by the state licensing authority.		101 The individual or couple applying for licensure shall submit a written application on the form prescribed by the state licensing authority
	102	Cohabiting couples must make joint application.	SAF	102 Married couples living together must make a joint application

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	103	All applicants and foster parents shall:		103 All applicants and licensees shall:
	103.1	Provide complete and truthful information on the licensing application and in the licensing process.	SAF	103.1 Provide complete and truthful information on the licensing application and in the licensing process.
	103.2	Cooperate fully with licensing authority in determining that all licensing regulations have been and continue to be met.	SAF	103.2 Cooperate fully with the licensor(s) in determining if all licensing regulations have been and continue to be met.
	103.3	Submit to criminal record and child abuse and neglect registry checks as required to include necessary fingerprinting and completed releases within 60-days of application.	SAF	
	104	A new application shall be required if:		104 A new application may be required if:
	104.1	Application for a license was withdrawn prior to the license being approved, and applicants are resubmitting an application more than 90 days after initial application		104.1 Application for a license was withdrawn and applicants are resubmitting an application;
	104.2	Licensing authority denied an application or revoked the home's license.		104.2 The department denied, revoked, or refused to renew the home's license and those denied, revoked, or refused seek to be reinstated as a foster home;
	104.3	The home was licensed and voluntarily closed more than 12 months ago		104.3 The home was licensed and the licensee voluntarily requested closure
				104.4 The license has become invalid because of a move to a different physical facility
				104.5 Changes affecting eligibility for licensure have occurred.
Expectations/ Characteristics				200 Household members in a foster home must be responsible, emotionally stable, emotionally mature people of good character as exemplified by past performance and general reputation
	201	All household members shall exhibit:		201 Applicants and licensees shall exhibit:
	201.1	Healthy patterns of social and interpersonal relationships.	VAR	201.1. Heather patterns of social and interpersonal relationships;
	201.2	Knowledge of child development and the needs of children.	VAR	201.2 Knowledge of child development and the needs of children;

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	201.3	Sound judgment. (See Definition)	VAR	201.5 Sound judgement
	201.4	Current freedom from substance abuse, and effective resolution of any past abuse of alcohol or other substances.	VAR	201.6 Applicants and licensees shall exhibit current freedom from substance abuse, and effective resolution of any past abuse of alcohol or other substances.
	201.5	Stable emotional adjustment following any major life changes.	VAR	201.8 Stable emotional adjustment following any major changes in close interpersonal relationships or other life circumstances
	204	All household members shall be free from physical, cognitive, or mental health conditions, which would have an adverse effect on the physical or emotional well-being of foster children.	VAR	203 All members of the household shall be free from physical conditions, mental limitations, or emotional problems, which would have an adverse effect on the physical or emotional well-being of foster children.
	FED2	All children who are household members must be up to date on immunizations consistent with the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Academy of Family Physicians, unless the immunization is contrary to the child's health as documented by a licensed health care professional. OR (Foster parents shall ensure household children are immunized in accordance with accepted medical norms.)	VAR	
Discipline	202	All applicant(s) and foster parent(s) shall demonstrate:		
	202.1	Ability to apply discipline in a constructive and educational manner	SAF	201.3 Ability to apply discipline in a constructive and educational manner
	202.2	Realistic expectations regarding the behavior of children.	SAF	201.4 Realistic expectations regarding the behavior of foster children
	202.3	Responsible care and/or planning for all children receiving in-home care.	SAF	201.7 Responsible care and/or planning for their children, including children who are not in the applicant's or licensee's care
	FED3	Ability to communicate with the foster child in the child's own language and communicate with the Department and other service providers	VAR	

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	FED4	At least one applicant in the home must have functional literacy, such as having the ability to read medication labels.	VAR	
				202 Each child-caring adult in the home shall exhibit the ability to be an appropriate model for children
	FED5	All applicants must have recent (conducted within the prior 12 months) physical exams from a licensed health care professional that indicate that the applicants are capable of caring for an additional child or children.	VAR	
Responsibilities of Foster Parents	300	Foster parents shall participate in required training as defined by the licensing authority.	VAR	300 Foster parents shall participate in training determined by the child placing agency to be necessary for the care of foster children.
	XX1	Cooperate fully with any child safety or regulatory intervention.	SAF	103.3 Cooperate fully with any licensing investigation
	301	Foster parents shall support and comply with the child's case plan and custodial responsibilities of the Division	SAF	301 Foster parents shall meet the physical, emotional, developmental and educational needs of each foster child, in accordance with the child's case plan
	302	Foster parents shall allow foster children to experience childhood and adolescence in ways like children not in foster care. Foster parents shall make decisions that maintain the health, safety, and best interests of the foster child while at the same time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of the child through age or developmentally appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities. This includes compliance with the Reasonable & Prudent Parent standard.		
Care and Supervision of Foster Children	303	Foster parents shall consider the child's age, mental and physical health, behavior, maturity, and developmental level when making routine decisions about a foster child.		

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	304	Foster parents shall provide or arrange for supervision that is both age- and developmentally-appropriate.	SAF	302 Foster parents shall provide or arrange for supervision appropriate to each child's age and developmental level
	305	Foster parents shall have a plan for providing appropriate substitute care for their foster children.	SAF	303 Foster parents shall have a plan for providing appropriate substitute care in their absence for employment or other purposes
				304 A foster parent shall assure that any substitute caregiver is aware of and agrees to follow all regulations regarding supervision and discipline
				305 A foster parent shall not permit any other person providing care or supervision to their foster child to violate any provision of these licensing regulations.
				306 Foster parents shall take reasonable steps to safeguard foster children from hazards.
	305.1	If this substitute care lasts for more than 72-hours or is for more than 11 days in a 12-month period, then this is considered formal respite, and must be approved by DCF FSD.		341.2 Foster parents shall notify the child's custodian before making plans for the care of the child by other persons for any period in excess of forty-eight hours, or for any planned absence of the child from the foster home in excess of forty-eight hours
	305.2	If this substitute care is for less than 72-hours or is for fewer than 11 days in a 12-month period, then this is considered informal respite, and is left to the discretion of the foster parent.		
	306	Foster parents shall give DCF-FSD at least 3-days' notice if they desire a foster child to be moved from their home. Notice is not required when an emergency exists that cannot be mitigated in another way.		
	308	Foster children shall be treated as members of the family. This includes equal participation in typical family activities, such as family meals, family recreation, and family traditions.		307 Foster parents shall provide constructive, positive family living experiences for foster children

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	311	311 Foster parents shall assure that foster children attend school in accordance with state law and the child's case plan		308 Material and equipment appropriate for the ages of foster children shall be available for both active and quiet play.
Home Environment, Community, and Family Activities				309 Foster parents shall arrange social contact and encourage friendship between foster children and other children in the community
				310 Foster parents shall provide opportunities for recreation and community activities
				311 Foster parents shall assure that foster children attend school in accordance with state law and the child's case plan
	309	Foster parents shall assure that household duties or chores are age- and developmentally-appropriate given the abilities of the foster child, and do not interfere with school, sleep, study or reasonable recreational time.		312 Foster parents shall assure that household duties or chores are appropriate to the age, developmental level, and abilities of the foster child, and do not interfere with school, sleep, study or 8 reasonable recreational time.
	310	Foster parents shall not require a child to pay for room and board and/or other basic necessities unless it is approved by DCF-FSD as part of the child's case plan.		313 Foster parents shall not require a child to use earned money to pay for room and board unless it is approved by the child's custodian as part of the child's case plan
	311	Foster parents shall seek approval if a foster child is to be employed or otherwise work at a business owned by the foster parent.		
	312	Foster parents shall provide children with appropriate clothing.		314 Foster parents shall provide children with appropriate clothing
	XX2	Foster parents shall seek approval for haircuts and piercings from DCF-FSD .		
	XX3	Foster parents shall support children in wearing gender identity-affirming hairstyles, clothing, and accessories.		

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Confidentiality and Privacy	313	Foster parents shall treat all personal information regarding foster children and their families as confidential.	SAF	315 Foster parents shall treat all personal information regarding foster children and their families as confidential
				316 Foster parents shall not authorize the publication of the name or photograph of a foster child in a manner that identifies the child as a foster child without written permission of the child's custodian
	314	Foster parents shall arrange for conditions of reasonable privacy for consultation with attorneys, family services workers, guardians ad litem, medical providers, and therapists.		318 Foster parents shall arrange for conditions of reasonable privacy for consultation with attorneys and caseworkers
	315	Foster parents shall ensure a foster child's right to privacy, to include personal space and personal belongings. Limits on this privacy may be imposed upon consultation with DCF-FSD, or in cases of imminent danger.		319 Foster parents shall respect a child's privacy
Relationships with the Child's Family	316	Foster parents shall support contact between foster children and their families as specified by court or case plan.		320 Foster parents shall support efforts to establish and maintain ties between foster children and their families, as specified in the case plan
				322 Foster parents shall cooperate with the child-placing agency in case planning and in carrying out the case plan.
	318	Foster parents shall permit foster children to communicate by mail, telephone, and social media as age- and developmentally-appropriate, in accordance with the child's case plan.		317 Foster parents shall permit foster children to communicate by mail and telephone in accordance with the child's case plan
	319	Foster parents shall not make insulting, derogatory, or intentionally hurtful remarks to foster children about the children's families.		
Discipline	320	Discipline shall be constructive and educational in nature. Correction must be fair, reasonable, and consistent, and whenever possible must be logically connected to the behavior in need of change.		323 Discipline shall be constructive and educational in nature. Correction must be fair, reasonable, and consistent, and whenever

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				possible must be logically connected to the behavior in need of change
	321	A foster parent shall not subject any child in the home to any cruel, degrading, or unnecessary discipline techniques, including but not limited to:	SAF	324 A foster parent shall not subject a foster child to any cruel, degrading or unnecessary discipline techniques, including, but not limited to: Spanking, slapping, hitting, shaking, or otherwise engaging in aggressive physical contact with a child; Requiring or forcing the child to take an uncomfortable position, such as squatting or bending, or requiring or forcing the child to repeat physical movements when used solely as a means of punishment; Isolation in a closet or a locked room; Deprivation of necessary food, water, rest, or opportunity for toileting or bathing; Denial of visiting or communications privileges with family, caseworker, or attorney as a means of punishment; Extensive withholding of positive emotional responses or stimulation; Chemical, mechanical, or physical restraint except as authorized in Regulation 326; Any act defined as abuse or neglect by Vermont Statutes Annotated, Title 33, Chapter 49.
	321.1	Spanking, slapping, hitting, shaking, or otherwise engaging in aggressive physical contact with a child;	SAF	324.1 Spanking, slapping, hitting, shaking, or otherwise engaging in aggressive physical contact with a child;
	321.2	Requiring or forcing the child to take an uncomfortable position, such as squatting or bending, or requiring or forcing the child to repeat physical movements when used solely as a means of punishment;	SAF	324.2 Requiring or forcing the child to take an uncomfortable position, such as squatting or bending, or requiring or forcing the child to repeat physical movements when used solely as a means of punishment;
	321.3	Preventing entry to the home;	SAF	327 Foster parents shall not exclude a foster child from entrance to the residence unless it is part of an approved case plan

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	321.4	Isolation, such as in a closet or a locked room;	SAF	324.3 Isolation in a closet or locked room;
	321.5	Deprivation of food, water, rest, or opportunity for toileting or bathing;	SAF	324.4 Deprivation of necessary food, water, rest, or opportunity for toileting or bathing;
	321.6	Denial of visiting or communications with family, family services worker, guardian ad litem, or attorney as a means of punishment;	SAF	324.5 Denial of visiting or communications privileges with family, caseworker, or attorney as a means of punishment; 321 Foster parents shall not deny a foster child planned visits with a parent or guardian as specified by court action or the case plan
	321.7	Persistent withholding of positive emotional responses or stimulation;	SAF	324.6 Extensive withholding of positive emotional responses or stimulation;
	321.8	Chemical or mechanical restraint;	SAF	324.7 Chemical, mechanical, or physical restraint except as authorized in Regulation 326
	321.9	Requiring a child to pay a monetary penalty;		
	321.10	Any act defined as abuse or neglect by state law and DCF FSD policy	SAF	324.8 Any act defined as abuse or neglect by Vermont Statutes Annotated, Title 33, Chapter 49
	322	Foster parents shall not engage in any practices that have the effect of degrading or humiliating a foster child, or that would undermine the foster child's sense of self-worth.	SAF	325 Foster parents shall not engage in any practices that have the effect of degrading or humiliating a foster child, or that would undermine the foster child's sense of self-worth
	323	A foster parent may not use physical management of a foster child as discipline.	SAF	326 A foster parents may not physically restrain a foster child except when the child's behavior threatens to result in harm to himself/herself or others or in significant damage to property, or when such restraint is in accordance with an established treatment plan.
	323.1	Physical management may be used when the child's behavior creates an imminent danger to himself/herself or others.	SAF	326.1 The amount of force used in restraint and the duration of the restraint must be the least amount consistent with reducing the risk to a level manageable by less restrictive means
	323.2	Foster parents shall report all such instances to DCF FSD.	SAF	326.2 Foster parents shall report to the child's custodian all incidents of physical restraint on a foster child. 326.3 Foster parents shall keep a

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				written account of any physical restraint used on a foster child.
	324	Foster parents shall not punish a child for bedwetting or actions regarding toilet training.	SAF	328 Foster parents shall not punish a child for bedwetting or actions in regard to toilet training
Health Care	325	Foster parents shall cooperate with DCF-FSD in securing routine and emergency medical and mental health care for foster children, including regular medical and dental examinations, and immunizations.	SAF	329 Foster parents shall cooperate with the custodian in securing routine and emergency medical and mental health care for foster children, including regular medical and dental examinations, and immunizations
	326	Foster parents shall observe children for signs of illness, disease, or changes in behavior and shall respond to and care for a child suffering from illness, accident, or injury, in a timely manner.	SAF	330 Foster parents shall observe children for signs of illness, disease, or changes in behavior and shall respond to and care for a child suffering from illness, accident, or injury
	327	First aid supplies shall be available to treat minor injuries.		331 First aid supplies shall be available to treat minor injuries.
	328	Foster parents shall not withhold prescribed medication or treatment from a foster child or change prescribed dosages without medical authorization.	SAF	332 Foster parents shall not withhold prescribed medications or treatment from a foster child or change prescribed dosages without medical authorization
	329	Foster parents shall not provide a foster child with any prescription medication not prescribed for that child.	SAF	333 Foster parents shall not provide to a foster child any prescription medication not prescribed for that child
	330	Foster parents shall adequately secure all prescription medication within the home.	SAF	
				334 Foster parents shall not provide alcoholic beverages or any illegal drug to a foster child
Food and Nutrition	331	Foster parents shall provide a well-balanced diet adequate to meet the nutritional needs and dietary restrictions of each foster child.	SAF	336 Foster parents shall provide a well-balanced diet adequate to meet the nutritional needs of each foster child. 337 A foster family shall include foster children at family meals and shall offer them the same choice of food as the rest of the family, with due consideration for individual nutritional needs and preferences

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				335 Foster parents shall assure that a foster child is provided at least three meals or their equivalent a day, available at regular hours
Religion and Cultural Heritage	332	Foster parents shall respect the religious beliefs and cultural and racial identity of foster children and shall not interfere with the reasonable practice of a foster child's religious beliefs and cultural and racial identities.		338 Foster parents shall respect the religious beliefs and cultural heritage of foster children, and shall not interfere with the reasonable practice of a foster child's religious beliefs
	333	Foster parents shall not coerce a foster child into participating in religious activities or ethnic events against the child's will.		339 Foster parents shall not coerce a foster child into participating in religious activities or ethnic events against the child's will
Reporting and Notification	334	Foster parent(s) shall report all suspected child abuse or neglect to the Vermont Child Protection Line, (24 hours a day, 7 days a week), at 1-800-649-5285. This report must be made within 24-hours.	SAF	340 A foster parent shall report to the local District Office any circumstances indicating that a foster child has been subjected to abuse as defined by 33VSA or has been a victim of assault or other physical or sexual abuse
	335	Foster parents shall immediately notify the foster child's DCF-FSD family services worker when any of the following occur:		341 Foster parents shall notify the child's custodian:
	335.1	If they suspect that a foster child has run away or is missing;	SAF	341.1 As soon as it has been determined that foster child has run away or is missing
	335.2	When any member of the household contracts a communicable disease or infection, which may present a threat to the health of the foster child;	SAF	341.3 When any member of the household contracts a disease, which may present a significant threat to the health of the foster child
	335.3	Upon any suspicion that a foster child is seriously ill or injured;	SAF	341.4 When a foster child experiences any serious illness or injury
	335.4	Upon any suspicion that a foster child has been abused, neglected, and/or has been the victim of assault, or other physical or sexual abuse.	SAF	
	336	The foster parent shall notify the District Office Resource Coordinator and licensing authority if any of the following occur or are anticipated:		342 The licensee shall notify the state licensing authority when any of the following occur or are anticipated:
	336.1	The foster family moves to different premises;		342.1 The foster family moves to a difference premises;

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	336.2	There is a change, other than foster children, in household membership;	SAF	342.2 There is a change, other than foster children, in household membership
	336.3	There are changes to the structural layout of the home, or damages that affect the habitability of the home, or which affect compliance with these regulations;	SAF	342.3 There are changes in the physical facility, which affect compliance with these regulations;
	336.4	The family plans to use sleeping arrangements other than those previously approved;		342.4 The family plans to use sleeping arrangements other than those previously approved;
	336.5	There is a serious physical or mental illness or injury of any household member, which affects the ability of the foster family to provide care for children;	SAF	342.5 There is a serious physical or mental illness or injury of any member of the household, which may affect the ability of the foster family to provide care for the children;
	336.6	Any household member is charged or convicted with a crime or is alleged to have abused a person of a vulnerable population.	SAF	
				342.6 The family intends to provide care for children or dependent adults through more than one program or agency
Physical Environment, General Safety, Maintenance	401	The foster parent shall maintain the house, grounds, and outside equipment and shall assure that they are reasonably free from any undue hazard or risk.	SAF	401 The foster parent shall maintain the house, grounds and outside equipment and shall assure that they are reasonably free from any undue hazard or risk.
	402	For foster homes with swimming pools, the swimming pools must comply with the following		
	402.1	402.1 Pools must have pool walls at least four feet high, with access to the pool secured; or pools must have a barrier on all sides at least four feet high of the pool, with methods of access through the barrier equipped with a safety device, such as a bolt lock;	SAF	
	402.2	402.2 Be equipped with a life saving device, such as a ring buoy;	SAF	
	402.3	Have a working pump and filtering system; this is not required if the pool is emptied after each use.	SAF	

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	403	Hot tubs and spas must have safety covers that are locked when not in use.	SAF	
	404	Foster parents will ensure that youth are properly educated about the presence and risks of swimming pools and other open bodies of water on the property.	SAF	
	405	Foster parents shall ensure that youth are supervised in an age- and developmentally-appropriate manner, regarding water safety.	SAF	
	402F	The foster home shall be adequately heated and ventilated.	SAF	402 The foster home shall be heated and ventilated adequately.
	403F	Foster parents shall not allow smoking or vaping of any substances in their home or in vehicles that transport foster children.	SAF	403 Foster parents shall ensure that children in the custody of the Department shall not be exposed to second hand smoke in the foster parent's home or vehicle
	404F	At all times, the foster child shall have access to telephone service within the home for emergency purposes.	SAF	404 The foster home shall have telephone service.
	407	The kitchen in the foster home shall have a sink with running water and a working refrigerator.	SAF	405 The kitchen in the foster home shall have a sink with running water and all other necessary equipment for safe food preparation and storage.
	406	A foster home shall have a minimum of one indoor bathroom with a functional toilet, a sink with running water, and one bath or shower with hot and cold water.	SAF	406 A foster home shall have a minimum of one indoor bathroom with a flush toilet, a washbasin with running water, and one bath or shower with hot and cold water.
	FED6	Be free from rodent and insect infestation.	SAF	
	407	All firearms shall be secured in the following manner:	SAF	407 Any firearm shall be kept in a locked storage space with ammunition stored separately in a locked space or shall be incapacitated by means of the locking of essential parts of the firearm or the removal and separate locking of such parts.

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	407.1	Firearms locked in a safe, case, cabinet, closet, or other container; or	SAF	
	407.2	Each firearm is incapacitated by means of locking essential parts; or	SAF	
	407.3	Essential parts are removed from the firearm and these parts are locked in a manner described in 409.1.	SAF	
	407.4	In all instances, ammunition must be stored in a container secured under a different lock than the firearms.	SAF	
	407.5	When firearms are stored in a glass front case, firearms must be secured as described in 409.2 or 409.3.	SAF	
	408	Foster parents shall take reasonable steps to safeguard foster children from hazards. These hazards include, but are not limited to, medications, intoxicants, chemicals, poisons, etc.	SAF	408 Foster parents shall take precautions to keep medicines and hazardous materials out of the reach of children.
	409	Emergency telephone numbers, including 911 and poison control, shall be posted in a central place in the home.	SAF	409 Emergency telephone numbers, including fire, police, physician, poison control, health agency and ambulance, shall be conspicuously posted adjacent to the telephone.
	410	Foster parents shall prohibit the access of potentially dangerous animals from foster children. Foster parents will report any acts of or history of injurious aggression by animals in their home.	SAF	410 Foster parents shall restrict the access of potentially dangerous animals to foster children
	410.1	If an animal causes injury to a human, the licensing authority may require the foster parent to rehome the animal as a condition of maintaining licensure.	SAF	
	410.2	Foster parents shall ensure that all pets are vaccinated against diseases that are transferable to humans—including rabies—in compliance with state law.	SAF	
	411	Foster parents shall maintain all power-driven equipment used by foster children in safe condition, with all safety features in place and operational.	SAF	411 Foster parents shall maintain all power-driven equipment used by foster children in safe condition, with all safety features in place and operational

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	411.1	Foster parents shall provide age appropriate instruction and supervision when a foster child uses such equipment.	SAF	411.1 Foster parents shall provide appropriate orientation and supervision when a foster child uses such equipment
Fire Safety	412	The home shall be free of dangers which constitute an obvious fire hazard, such as faulty electrical cords, overloaded electrical sockets exposed wiring, or an accumulation of papers, paint, or other flammable material stored in the home.	SAF	412 The home shall be free of dangers which constitute an obvious fire hazard, such as faulty electrical cords, overloaded electrical sockets or an accumulation of papers, paint or other flammable material stored in the home.
	413	Foster parents shall have an evacuation plan to be used in the event of fire. This plan shall be written and/or diagrammed and posted in a central common area in the home. The plan shall include:	SAF	413 Foster parents shall have an evacuation plan to be used in the event of fire and shall assure that, consistent with their ability to comprehend, foster children understand the plan. The plan shall include: a description of two or more means of exit from each floor level used for sleeping by foster children; the designation of a central meeting place outside the home; and, a means of evacuating children who need assistance
	413.1	A description of two or more means of exit from each floor level used for sleeping by foster children; and	SAF	413.1 A description of two or more means of exit from each floor level used for sleeping by foster children; and
	413.2	The designation of a central meeting place outside the home; and,	SAF	413.2 The designation of a central meeting place outside the home; and,
	413.3	A means of evacuating children who need assistance.	SAF	413.3 A means of evacuating children who need assistance.
	413.4	Foster parents shall review this plan with foster children in their home.	SAF	
	414	Foster parents shall ensure the home has properly installed, located and functioning smoke detectors. At minimum, one detector in each: bedroom occupied by foster child; hall within close proximity to sleeping areas; and on each floor with living space (may include detector within proximity of sleeping area).	SAF	414 Foster parents shall provide an adequate number of smoke detectors, which are properly installed, located and functioning. There shall be at least one such detector in the basement and one on each floor that is used as living space.

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				415 Foster parents shall place a functional portable, ABC-type fire extinguisher in the cooking area of the home
	415	Foster parents shall ensure the home has at least one properly installed and functioning carbon monoxide detectors on each floor of the home, including in the basement.	SAF	
Bedrooms	416	There shall be at least two accessible exits from each bedroom used by foster children. At least one exit must lead directly outside of the home. The licensing authority will determine if exits are suitable for purposes of rescue/escape.	SAF	416 There shall be at least two accessible exits from each floor level used for sleeping by foster children
	417	Each foster child shall be provided with a safe sleeping space and appropriate bedding	SAF	417 Each foster child shall be provided with his or her own bed or crib.
	FED7	Foster parents shall not co-sleep or bed-share with infants	SAF	
	418	No foster child over five years of age shall sleep in the same room with an adult	VAR	418 No foster child over two years of age shall sleep in the same room with an adult.
	419	Sleeping arrangements should be age and developmentally appropriate for the children and youth placed in the home.	VAR	419 No child over five years of age shall sleep in the same room with a child of the opposite sex when either child is a foster child.
	420	There shall be no more than four children designated to sleep in a bedroom when any of them is a foster child.	VAR	420 There shall be no more than four children designated to sleep in a bedroom when any of them is a foster child.
	421	No living room, dining area or other area of the home, which is not ordinarily a sleeping room, may be used for such purpose by any household member on a regular basis.	VAR	421 No living room, dining area or other area of the home, which is not ordinarily a sleeping room, may be used for such purpose by any member of the household on a regular basis.
	422	A bedroom used by a foster child shall be of sufficient size and configuration to allow for safe sleeping space, adequate storage for personal possessions, and privacy.	VAR	422 A bedroom used by a foster child shall be of sufficient size to allow for a bed and to afford space for dressing, quiet activities and storage of the possessions of the occupants of the room.
				423 All bedrooms and bathrooms used by foster children shall be equipped with doors which

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				can be closed, and which can be readily opened from outside
				424 A bedroom used by a foster child shall have at least one window, which can be opened to the outside.
	424	Bedroom areas shall be accessible through an entry other than a bathroom.	VAR	425 Bedroom areas shall be accessible through an entry other than a bathroom.
	425	At least one bathroom shall be accessible by means of an entry other than through a bedroom.	VAR	426 At least one bathroom shall be accessible by means of an entry other than through a bedroom.
	426	A bedroom, which is accessible only through another bedroom, may be used only when the occupants of both bedrooms could share a bedroom under the provisions of these regulations.	VAR	427 A bedroom, which is accessible only through another bedroom, may be used only when the occupants of both bedrooms could share a bedroom under the provisions of these regulations.
				428 Each foster child shall have a clean mattress and shall be provided with clean bedding appropriate to the season.
				429 All beds designated for use by foster children shall have headroom sufficient to allow the child to sit up comfortably in bed.
				430 Foster parents shall provide each foster child with a dresser or other adequate storage space and a space for hanging clothing near the bedroom occupied by the child.
	430	Every bedroom used by a foster child shall have a door.	VAR	
Transportation	430T	Foster parents shall have access to necessary transportation for foster children		431 Foster parents shall have access to regular transportation for foster children.
	432	Foster parents shall maintain vehicles used to transport foster children in a safe condition and shall assure that such vehicles are properly registered, inspected, and insured.	SAF	432 Foster parents shall maintain vehicles used to transport foster children in a safe condition and shall assure that such vehicles are properly registered, inspected and insured.
	432	Foster children shall be transported only by a person possessing a valid driver's license.	SAF	433 Foster children shall be transported only by a person possessing a valid driver's license

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	433	Foster parents shall ensure foster children are transported in compliance with applicable state law regarding child passenger safety.	SAF	434 Foster parents shall assure that any foster child weighing less than forty pounds or any foster child less than five years of age is properly secured in a federally approved infant or child passenger restraining system when being transported in the foster parents' vehicle. Foster parents shall assure that all other foster children are properly secured in seatbelts when being transported in the foster parents' vehicle.
	434	Foster children may not be transported by any adult who has been using intoxicants.	SAF	
Definitions		<p>Adam Walsh check A state child abuse registry check for those applicant(s) who have resided outside of Vermont within the last five years, required by the Federal Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.</p> <p>Age- or Developmentally-Appropriate: Activities or items that are (a) generally accepted as suitable for children of the same chronological age or level of maturity, or that are determined to be developmentally-appropriate for a child based on the development of cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities that are typical for an age or age group; and (b) in the case of a specific child, activities or items that are suitable for the child based on the developmental stages attained by the child with respect to the cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities of the child.</p> <p>Applicant A person who has made formal, written application for a foster home license.</p> <p>Case Plan The plan for provision of services to a foster child, developed by the child's DCF-FSD family services worker and</p>		<p>Applicant A person who has made formal, written application for a foster home license.</p> <p>Caregiver A person who provides care and supervision to a foster child.</p> <p>Case Plan The plan for provision of services to a foster child, developed by the agency responsible for providing such services.</p> <p>Commissioner The Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families.</p> <p>Custodian The person or agency (such as the Department for Children and Families) having legal custody of a child.</p>

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	<p>treatment team.</p> <p>Centralized Intake and Emergency Services Unit The DCF-FSD unit to which all reports of suspected child abuse and neglect are made; See, “Child Protection Line.”</p> <p>Chemical Restraint See, “Restraint, Chemical”</p> <p>Child Protection Line A telephone hotline, staffed 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, to which all reports of suspected child abuse and/or neglect in Vermont are made; See, “Centralized Intake and Emergency Services Unit.”</p> <p>Child Safety Intervention The formal response by DCF-FSD, including the licensing authority, to an accepted report of child abuse or neglect.</p> <p>Commissioner The Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families, appointed by the Governor to oversee the various divisions of DCF, which includes the Family Services Division, or “FSD.”</p> <p>DCF-FSD See “Department for Children and Families.”</p>	<p>Denial The formal decision of the state licensing authority not to grant a foster home license to an applicant.</p> <p>Dependent Adult An adult who is in need of, and receives, personal care and/or supervision.</p> <p>Foster Care The provision of 24-hour per day care in a family home to a child other than the biological or adopted child of the provider.</p> <p>Foster Child A child receiving foster care.</p>
	<p>Department for Children and Families A department of social services and supports under the Agency of Human Services. The Department for Children and Families (DCF) includes the Family Services Division (FSD), which oversees the care of children in foster care.</p> <p>Denial The formal decision of the licensing authority not to grant a foster home license to an applicant.</p> <p>Foster Care The provision of 24-hour per day care in a family home to a foster child, inclusive of respite or other substitute care.</p> <p>Foster Child A child who has been ordered into the custody of the</p>	<p>Foster Home The physical premises in which foster care is provided and the household members reside.</p> <p>Foster Parent A person licensed to provide foster care; a person required by state law to be so licensed.</p> <p>Household Member Any person, whether a family member or not, who lives and sleeps regularly in a foster home.</p>

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	<p>Commissioner for the Vermont Department for Children and Families, and who is placed in the home of a licensed foster parent.</p> <p>Foster Home The physical premises in which foster care is provided and the household members reside.</p> <p>Foster Parent A person licensed to provide foster care; a person required by state law to be so licensed.</p> <p>Guardian ad litem A court-appointed child advocate.</p> <p>Hold The immediate decision by the Licensing Authority to temporarily restrict district staff from making new placements in a foster home.</p> <p>Household Member Any person, whether a family member or not, who lives, sleeps, and/or regularly utilizes common areas in the foster home. Foster children are not considered household members.</p> <p>In-Home Care Ongoing, regular, and/or predictably scheduled periods when the applicant(s) or foster parent(s) are primarily responsible for providing for the basic needs of food, shelter, and age- and developmentally-appropriate supervision to an individual, for remuneration.</p> <p>License Authorization from the licensing authority for designated individuals to provide foster care at a designated location; the certificate granting such authorization.</p>		<p>License Authorization from the state licensing authority for designated individuals to provide foster care at a designated location; the certificate granting such authorization.</p> <p>Licensee A person in whose name a license is issued.</p> <p>Physical Restraint Direct physical contact required on the part of a foster parent to prevent a child from hurting his or her self, others, or property.</p> <p>Primary Caregiver An adult who provides care and supervision to a foster child in a foster home on a regular basis.</p> <p>Revocation The formal invalidation, for cause, of a license by the state licensing authority.</p>
	<p>Licensing Authority The State agency with the statutory authority to license foster homes.</p> <p>Limit, Limitation</p>		<p>State Licensing Authority The state agency with the statutory authority to license foster homes.</p>

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	<p>Specific restrictions imposed on the license. Examples of such restrictions may include the age of children in care, number of children in care, and/or specific children in care. Other restrictions may also be imposed.</p> <p>Mechanical Restraint See, "Restraint, Mechanical."</p> <p>On Hold See, "Hold."</p> <p>Physical Management Application of physical force and/or physical control by the foster parent to restrict the freedom of movement of a foster child.</p> <p>Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard (RPPS): The standard characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety, and best interests of a child while at the same time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of the child, that a foster parent shall use when determining whether to allow a child in foster care under the responsibility of the Department for Children and Families to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities. The reasonable and prudent parent standard does not allow foster parents to make decisions that conflict with applicable statutes, regulations, or policies.</p> <p>Regulatory Intervention The formal response by DCF-FSD, including the licensing authority, to a report that a person paid to provide care for a child in DCF-FSD custody has not been in compliance with licensing regulations.</p> <p>Resource Coordinator The DCF-FSD staff member, in a district office, who is responsible for recruitment and retention of local foster parents.</p> <p>Respite, Respite Care</p>	<p>Suspension The immediate temporary invalidation of a license by the state licensing authority in a situation which immediately imperils the health, safety or well-being of a foster child.</p> <p>Variance Written authorization by the state licensing authority for an applicant or licensee to meet the intent of a regulation in a way other than that prescribed by the regulation.</p>
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	<p>Care intended to provide a break for the foster child’s caregiver. Please see regulation #305 for further details.</p>		
	<p>Restraint, Chemical The administration of medications that may or may not be a standard treatment for the child/youth’s medical or psychiatric condition or a part of his/her daily medication regimen, which are used for the primary purpose of temporarily controlling the child/youth’s behavior.</p> <p>Restraint, Mechanical The use of any device, article, or garment attached or adjacent to the child/youth’s body that restricts freedom of movement.</p> <p>Revocation The formal invalidation, for cause, of a license by the Licensing Authority.</p> <p>Risk of Harm A significant danger that a child will suffer serious harm by other than by accidental means, which harm would be likely to cause physical injury or sexual abuse. Please see 33 V.S.A. §4912(14).</p> <p>Sound Judgment The ability to make decisions and form opinions regarding the care of foster children/youth that are (a) informed by past experience and knowledge, (b) logical, predictive, fact based, and non-emotional, and (c) respectful of community norms.</p> <p>Violations of this regulation would imply actions and decisions that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm or significantly threaten a child(ren) or youth’s safety, permanence, or well-being; or • Would not make sense to a reasonable person; or • Ignore learning that should have been gained by past experience; or • Clearly violate community norms or expectations; or 		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ignore facts and/or logical consequences. <p>Suspension The immediate temporary invalidation of a license by the state licensing authority.</p> <p>Variance Written authorization by the licensing authority for an applicant or foster parent to meet the intent of a regulation in a way other than is prescribed by the regulation.</p>		
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