



WASHINGTON STATE
Department of
Children, Youth, and Families

FAMILY FIRST LEGISLATION AND THE PROPOSED FOSTER HOME LICENSING STANDARDS

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8/29/18 & 9/6/18

Purpose of Webinar

▶ To inform you about the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA):

- ▶ FFPSA is federal legislation that passed on February 9th, 2018.
- ▶ FFPSA created draft federal Foster Home Model Licensing Standards that were provided to the states for review on 8/1/18.
- ▶ Comments on the draft standards are being accepted by the federal government until 10/1/18.
- ▶ The final standards will be provided to the states late 2018 and must be in put into WAC and in effect by 4/1/19.

Purpose of Webinar

- ▶ **Elicit stakeholder feedback/comment**
 - ▶ There are proposed rule changes that are minor and some that will greatly impact foster parents and our current licensing process. Today we will be going over all of the changes.
 - ▶ DCYF/Licensing Division is eliciting stakeholder feedback now through 9/13/18.
 - ▶ Proposed Rule Changes - cross walk

Proposed Rule Changes

Foster Home WACs that Would Need Revised	Current WAC	New Language Required by FFPSA	Additional Information
110-148-1520	What services am I expected to provide for children in my care?	<p>Applicants must be able to communicate with child in child's own language and must be able communicate with the IV-E agency, health care providers, and other service provider.</p> <p>At least one applicant must have functional literacy.</p>	WAC revision and policy revision
110-148-1320	When will the department grant me a foster family license?	<p>All children who are household members must be up to date with AAP, the CDC, unless immunization is contrary to child's health and documented by LHP.</p>	<p>WAC revision: Major change for foster families. DLR currently allows for religious, philosophical, and medical exemptions as do the schools. This new requirement will no longer allow for those exemptions. The only exemption allowed is if the vaccine is contrary to a child's health.</p>
110-148-1555	What are the immunization requirements for the children placed in my home?		

Proposed Rule Changes

Foster Home WACs that Would Need Revised	Current WAC	New Language Required by FFPSA	Additional Information
110-04 and 6800 Background Check Policy	Revised Background Check WAC	Must not approve a background check with a felony conviction for: Child abuse or neglect; Spousal abuse; A crime against children (including child pornography); A crime involving violence, including rape, sexual assault, or homicide, but not including other physical assault or battery; or Physical assault, battery, or a drug-related offense within the last five (5) years; and	Background Check WAC and policy revision.

Proposed Rule Changes

Foster Home WACs that Would Need Revised	Current WAC	New Language Required by FFPSA	Additional Information
110-148-1500	Under what conditions may I have guns and weapons on my property?	Weapons and ammo stored separately.	Revise the WAC to the 2016 language that required weapons and ammo to be stored separately (no exceptions). Waivers may need to be done for law enforcement.
110-148-1455	How must I keep children safe around bodies of water?	Pools must be equipped with a life saving device, such as a ring buoy.	Minor WAC revision.
		Pools that cannot be emptied after each use, must have a working pump and filtration system.	Moderate WAC revision.
		Swimming pools must have a barrier on all sides.	Moderate WAC revision requiring barrier (fence) on all sides of pool, no longer allowing 4ft pool wall to count as barrier.

Proposed Rule Changes

Foster Home WACs that Would Need Revised	Current WAC	New Language Required by FFPSA	Additional Information
110-148-1390	Can I accept children outside the limitations of my license?	Only exceptions for overcap are for siblings, to allow a child to remain with family that they have established relationship with, to allow a family with special training or skills to provide care to a child with severe disability.	WAC revision. Major practice change for foster parents and DCFS. We allow overcaps for families that have demonstrated exceptional abilities to meet the needs of children, this would no longer be allowed. The only exception for skill or training is specific to a child with a severe disability.
110-148-1465	What other emergency fire and safety requirements must I follow to become licensed?	Requires a carbon monoxide detector on each level of occupancy, and one near all sleeping areas.	New WAC: New requirement we do not have this in the Foster Home WACs.
110-148-1460	How do I prepare for a natural disaster or emergency?	Requires written emergency evacuation plan to be posted in a prominent place in the home and shared with children.	WAC revision: Current WAC does not require it to be posted, just shared with children.

Proposed Rule Changes

Foster Home WACs that Would Need Revised	Current WAC	New Language Required by FFPSA	Additional Information
110-148-1450	What are requirements for my household equipment and hardware?	Requires Foster Parent to maintain comprehensive list of emergency phone numbers, including poison control and post in a prominent place in the home.	Minor WAC revision to mirror federal language. Current WAC requires posting of emergency numbers and poison control, in an "easily visible place", this will be changed to "prominent".
110-148-1510	What requirements do I need to follow when I transport children?	Requires driver to have registration, and only adults in the home having a driving record in "good standing" transport the child.	WAC revision and policy revision. WA will need to define "good standing" and mirror WAC language to state only "adults" can transport children.
NEW CPA WAC 110-147-1691	What training must I provide to a foster care licensing applicant prior to licensing?	Mimic 110-148-1375. Provide clarity if agency is using different Pre-Service than DCYF, the foster parent would need to complete the DCYF pre-service if later they decided to become licensed by DCYF.	NEW 388-147 WAC

Proposed Rule Changes

Foster Home WACs that Would Need Revised	Current WAC	New Language Required by FFPSA	Additional Information
110-148-1365	What are the personal requirements for foster parents?	Foster parents cannot use any illegal substances, abuse alcohol by consuming it in excess amounts, or abuse legal prescription and/or nonprescription drugs by consuming them in excess amounts or using them contrary to as indicated.	WAC revision. The federal language is more descriptive than current WAC.
110-148-1495	What are the requirements for smoking around children?	Applicants and their guests will not smoke in the family foster home, in any vehicle used to transport children, or in the presence of the child in foster care.	WAC revision. This WAC revision will be more stringent than current RCW 70.16.075 regarding smoking. There is also no exception regarding Native American religious ceremonies involving tobacco as in our current WAC.

Proposed Policy Changes

- ▶ **Policy revisions for Practices and Procedures 5110: Completing the Home Study**
 - ▶ Specify the WACs that non-safety waivers can be used for relatives.
 - ▶ Clarify that one in home interview is required for each household member to observe family functioning and assess the family's capacity to meet the needs of the child or children in foster care.
 - ▶ Require one of the three references to be a relative.
- ▶ **Policy revisions for Practices and Procedures 5180: Foster Parent (Licensed Family Foster Home) Training**
 - ▶ Require medication administration training prior to licensure.

Next Steps/Closing

- ▶ DCYF/Licensing Division will be accepting comments from stakeholders now through **September 13th at 5pm.**
 - ▶ Please send feedback to dcyf.familyfirstact@dcyf.wa.gov with “**FFPSA Comment**” in the subject line.
- ▶ The comments received will be compiled and sent to the federal government no later than September 21th.
- ▶ The final licensing standards will be provided to the states late 2018 and Washington will be providing this information to stakeholders through 1624, IPAC, Caregiver Connection, Foster Parent Website and through other meetings or groups.
- ▶ DCYF/Licensing Division will then be working with stakeholders to align our current WACs with the federal standards through an emergency WAC filing, with an effective date prior to April 1, 2019.