

Lois Day

**Authorized Signature**

**Number:** CW-IM-026

**Issue Date:** 10/13/2009

**Topic:** Foster Care

**Subject:** Department Certified Families Providing Child Care

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees                        | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers               | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):              |

**Message:**

**Can an Individual Provide Foster Care and Child Care?**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Child Care Division (CCD) recognize that some individuals and families may want to be certified as a foster home AND licensed as a child care home.

While it is possible for someone to do both child care and foster care, an assessment of the situation needs to occur. There are no policies preventing someone from being licensed as both a child care provider and a foster care provider, but a careful assessment must be done and a management approval must be obtained.

**Here's how it works.**

It takes a special set of abilities and qualifications to become a certified foster parent or relative caregiver or a child care provider, and it takes an even more special set of abilities and qualifications to do both. When a family is considered for approval by both agencies, a thorough assessment will be done to determine that the safety and well-being needs of both the foster children and the child care children are met. Certification is done separately by each agency.

Child Care Division licenses and regulates child care facilities. The child care regulations contain basic health and safety standards for child care facilities, including number and ages of child care children, supervision and program of activities. If a child care provider takes foster care children into the home, he/she must make sure that there are not more children than the license allows, and that child care regulations are still met. DHS cannot give permission to waive the child care regulations.

DHS and CCD look at many assessment considerations, including but not limited to:

- The applicant's relationship to the child in foster care, including a relative relationship;
- Assessing the applicant's skills and abilities, along with the specific needs of the child

- Whether the applicant is currently providing child care for the child entering foster care
- The potential number of children and the ages in the home should the applicant become both a foster parent or relative caregiver and a child care provider;
- DHS will discuss and assess the applicant's plan for supervision of the children in the home;
- The known behavioral or medical issues of the child being placed by DHS;
- Any prior CCD complaints or other care giving concerns with child care since the applicant was approved/licensed by CCD;
- Any prior DHS complaints or other care giving concerns with the certified foster parent or relative caregiver had since certified by DHS;

Specific training that is required to be certified as a foster parent, and ongoing training is required to maintain a foster care certificate. This is also true of licensing requirements for child care.

*If you have any questions about this information, contact:*

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