	STATE OFFICE for SERVICES to CHILDREN and FAMILIES	NUMBER: II-B.1.1
	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT MANUAL II ISSUED BY: Program Operations EFFECTIVE DATE: August 12, 1999	SECTION: B. Foster/ Adoptive/Family Group Home Certification SUBSECTION: 1. Certification Standards
SUBJECT: 1. Ensuring Quality in Foster Homes		

Prior Version

Responsible Manager: Manager, Transitional Resources Unit

Approval: Assistant Administrator, Program Operations

Interpretation: Manager, Transitional Resources Unit

REFERENCES: Multiethnic Placement Act, 1994
Public Law 105-89, Adoption and Safe Families Act
SOSCF Policy # I-A.5.2, Contested Case Hearings
SOSCF Policy # I-B.2.2.3, Assessment of Abuse Allegation in Family Foster Care, Family Group Homes and Family Shelter Homes
SOSCF Policy # I-B.3.2.1, Substitute Care Placement Reviews
SOSCF Policy # I-E.2, Multiethnic Placements
SOSCF Policy # I-E.2.1, Placement of Indian Children
SOSCF Policy # I-E.2.2, Placement of Refugee Children
SOSCF Policy # I-E.3, Placement Expectations
SOSCF Policy # I-E.3.1, Placement Matching
SOSCF Policy # I-E.3.6.1, Permanent Foster Care
SOSCF Policy # I-E.5.1, Maintenance and Treatment Payments
SOSCF Policy # I-E.5.1.2, Special Rates
SOSCF Policy # I-E.6.1, Title IV-E-FC and General Assistance
SOSCF Policy # II-B.1, Certification Standards
SOSCF Policy # II-E.1.2, Treatment Foster Care

PURPOSE

413-200-0270 These administrative rules:

(1) Emphasize that the child's health and safety are the paramount concerns guiding all child welfare services; and

(2) Help ensure the safety of a child placed in an approved State Office for Services to Children and Families (SOSCF) Resource Family placement through adherence and compliance to the foster care certification standards.

Statutory Authority: ORS 418.005
Stats. Implemented: P.L. 105-89

Prior Version

DEFINITIONS

413-200-0280 The following definition applies to OAR 413-200-0270 through 413-200-0290:

"Resource Family" means foster or kinship parents who make themselves and other resources available to meet the needs of children placed in their care.
Statutory Authority: ORS 418.005
Stats. Implemented: P.L. 105-89

PROCEDURE

413-200-0290 (1) Active certification practices shall be demonstrated by the following activities:

(a) Recruitment.

(A) Develop a local community-based recruitment plan in conjunction with the state recruitment plan;

(B) Identify and seek out Resource Families that represent all ethnic and cultural groups within the community;

(C) Respond to Resource Family inquiry calls and provide families with verbal and written information to explore the Foster/Kinship programs available through SOSCF;

(D) Provide a timely orientation for Resource Family applicants. Orientation schedules should reflect community and branch needs; and

(E) Provide community outreach and presentations about SOSCF's Foster/Kinship Care programs.

Prior Version

(b) Certification.

(A) Interview, assess and evaluate each Resource Family's certification potential;

(B) Process each Resource Family's Criminal History Check;

(C) Complete each Resource Family's personal references, IIS and background checks;

(D) Complete family assessment and approval of home safety compliance and, when possible, assist the applicant in identifying areas in which the physical surroundings of the home can be improved to meet the established standards;

(E) Process agency required paperwork;

(F) Monitor each Resource Family's ongoing compliance to certification, safety and practice standards;

(G) Take necessary action to process suspension, revocation and inactive referrals (OAR 413-200-0190) if the Resource Family is not in compliance with certification, safety or practice standards;

(H) Complete an annual reassessment of the knowledge, skills, and abilities of each Resource Family;

(I) Complete an annual reassessment of the physical safety requirements for each Resource Family; and

(J) Complete an assessment of reported concerns when allegation does not meet the child abuse definition, and assist in developing a safety plan when necessary (See I-B.2.2.3).

Prior Version

(c) Training. The curriculum shall include:

(A) Certification standard administrative rules, OAR413-200-0100 through 413-200-0230;

(B) Knowledge of SOSCF and the children and families served;

(C) Roles and responsibilities of SOSCF staff and agency partners including medical providers, the court, schools, Citizen Review Boards and Court Appointed Special Advocates;

(D) Roles and responsibilities of Resource Families;

(E) Treatment issues for children and adults;

(F) Sexual, physical abuse and issues;

(G) Parenting skill building, positive discipline and guidance;

(H) Attachment, bonding, and self esteem building;

(I) Child development issues;

(J) Drug and alcohol effects on the family; and

(K) Reporting and documenting health and education information.

(d) Placement Matching.

(A) Provide assistance to the caseworker in the placement matching of children to Resource Families available for foster or kinship care;

Prior Version

(B) Utilize agency policy in making placement decisions;

(C) Keep current on Resource Families' skill levels and abilities in order to make appropriate placements;

(D) Document each Resource Family's skill levels, abilities and number of children in each home in order to make appropriate placements;

(E) Assist the case worker in making emergency or regular placements and assist in maintaining placements; and

(F) Maintain close communication with the case workers who have been assigned to children in need of placement to fully understand child and family needs.

(e) Support.

(A) Educate and assist Resource Families during times of transition and crisis;

(B) Identify and recruit Resource Families who can provide mentoring relationships between experienced and newer Resource Families;

(C) Facilitate the establishment and maintenance of support groups that teach and encourage responsible practice and encourage Resource Families to become involved in such support groups.

(f) Retention.

(A) Act as a liaison between Resource Families and case workers to assure services and resources are available to children;

Prior Version

(B) Assist Resource Families in relief care planning;

(C) Develop, implement and participate in local community efforts to provide supportive communication networks for Resource Families through support groups, informational newsletters and recognition activities;

(D) Provide assistance and support, in coordination with the caseworker, to Resource Families in problem solving and conflict/crisis resolution;

(E) Develop a method of obtaining feedback by establishing and maintaining a branch Resource Family Advisory Committee or by establishing a method to obtain regular input from Resource Families;

(F) Encourage, promote, and seek community involvement in Resource Family programs; and

(G) Identify service needs of Resource Families and address identified needs in a proactive manner.

(2) SOSCF branches shall monitor Resource Family compliance with certification standards by:

(a) Maintaining and documenting person-to-person or phone contact with each Resource Family where a child(ren) is placed in their care every 90 days. Documentation will occur in the annual renewal home study; and

(b) Conducting one on-site visit to each Resource Family's home annually. In two parent Resource Family homes, both parents shall be present during the annual on-site visit.

Prior Version

(3) Evaluative tools shall be utilized to ensure child safety. These tools may include:

(a) Case worker evaluations of Resource Families;

(b) System of Care and Resource Family Reviews;

(c) Regional Comprehensive Branch Reviews;

(d) Resource Family's evaluation of the children in their care, and of SOSCF's response to these children's needs;

(e) Exit interviews of Resource Families leaving the out-of-home care system;

(f) Interviews with children, as appropriate; and

(g) Interviews with families of children, as appropriate.

Statutory Authority: ORS 418.005
Stats. Implemented: P.L. 105-89