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Subject: Short-Term Foster Care Services for Licensee Approved Homes

**22 VAC 40-131, Standards for Licensing Child-Placing Agencies
Effective May 1, 2012
Short-Term Foster Care Services for Licensee Approved Homes**

Many questions were asked on the topic of short-term foster care at the Roanoke provider meeting held March 29, 2012 at the Piedmont Regional Office. This guidance is intended to assist licensed child-placing agencies (LCPA) in implementing the requirements for short-term foster care services to *licensee approved homes for children already placed by the licensee*. It does not cover short-term foster care for children and youth not already in the licensee's care.

If you have questions about short-term foster care not addressed in this document, please consult with your Licensing Specialist.

22 VAC 40-131-170. Program statement and description.

170-A -- Please review the definition for short-term foster care. The definition (22 VAC 40-131-10) for short-term foster care includes relief for resource, foster, adoptive, or treatment foster family home providers AND substitute care for children placed by their families. Most agencies providing foster care and treatment foster care will need to send the Licensing Specialist an updated program statement before May 1, 2012 along with a request to modify the license to add authority to provide short-term foster care.

If the licensee only provides short-term foster care to relieve approved provider homes, the program statement does not need to include procedures for accepting short-term foster care placements (22 VAC 40-131-170-A-12) as these children are accepted to receive another type of service through your agency.

22 VAC 40-131-250. Intake, acceptance, and placement.

250-A -- The licensee must have written authority to place. If this authority was obtained prior to placing a youth in the licensee's program (i.e. foster care or treatment foster care), a subsequent court order, entrustment, or placement agreement is not required for a short-term foster care placement unless the placement in short-term foster care changes the terms of the court order, entrustment or placement agreement.

250-G and O – The intent is that this information be collected *prior* to placement in the licensee's program. If a child is placed for adoption, foster care, or treatment foster care, and if short-term foster care is provided as a relief to the approved provider home, the information does not need to be collected again and a new written assessment is not required.

22 VAC 40-131-280. Foster home agreements.

280-A -- Foster home agreements are required between the agency and the family for each child in foster care, treatment foster care, and short-term foster care. If a child is placed in the same home for multiple short-term foster care placements, a new agreement is not required unless the terms of the agreement change.

22 VAC 40-131-290. Medical, dental, and psychiatric examinations and care.

290-A—Medical exams are required prior to placement. Like the requirements in 250, it is the intent that this be obtained prior to acceptance in the licensee’s program or shortly thereafter for emergency placements. For example, a child who will be placed in short-term foster care to relieve a provider home is not required to receive a repeat medical exam in the short-term foster care placement, except as required by 290-B.

22 VAC 40-131-340. Service plans.

340-C -- Service plans are required for short-term foster care. These requirements may be incorporated into the individualized service plan for youth receiving foster care or treatment foster care services required in 340 A. If the service plan has not been developed and the child is placed in short-term foster care, the short-term foster care service plan must be developed and implemented within 72 hours of the child’s placement.

22 VAC 40-131-360. Discharge from care.

360-E -- The discharge summary is required when the child is discharged from the licensee’s program. A discharge summary is not required at the end of a short-term foster care placement when the child continues to be placed in the agency’s program.

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