

UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST

Currently, homes certified by Foster Family Agencies conform to Title 22, Division 6, General Licensing Requirements and Small Family Home regulations, with specified exceptions.

Typically, the Small Family Homes provide care and supervision to a medically fragile population and children with developmental disabilities. Most Certified Family Homes (CFH) do not provide care and supervision to a medically fragile population. Typical CFH resemble Foster Family Homes (FFH) in the scope of care and supervision provided and type of children served. In another similarity, FFH and CFH are regarded by statute as private residences pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 1530.5. Requiring CFH to conform to FFH regulations when providing care and supervision to foster youth is appropriate. These proposed regulations will update the FFA regulations to require certified caregivers to follow the FFH regulations, Chapter 9.5, commencing with section 89200.

Making this change is also beneficial because the FFH regulations have recently been updated to incorporate input from the Children's Residential Regulations Review Workgroup (CRRRW). The CRRRW was comprised of experts in the field, including advocates, county child welfare staff, current and former foster youth, foster parents, foster parent associations, and the California Department of Social Services representatives. The input is applicable to certified foster homes.

Therefore, it is the intent of the Department of Social Services, based on its broad authority through Health and Safety Code sections 1501 and 1530, to promulgate regulations that ensure children in certified foster care homes and the foster family agency caregivers follow the most appropriate and applicable regulations.

These regulations were considered at the public hearing held on July 14, 2010 in Sacramento, California. No written or oral testimony was received during the 45-day comment period from May 28 to July 14, 2010.

CDSS did not renounce these regulations because no changes were made to the regulations following the public hearing.