

## Child and Family Services Licensing Policy Manual: Specialized Foster Care Licensing Procedure

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### Definitions

A specialized foster home is a youth foster home that is providing care to children with problems that cannot be adequately addressed through regular foster care.

Specialized foster care may be used to bridge the transition of a child with special needs from a higher level of care back into the community, or to prevent placement in a higher level of care

A professional support person is a person who has experience and training related to the type of medical problem for which the specialized foster parents are expected to provide care. The professional support person is available to consult with the foster parents on specific concerns.

### Number of Children Per Home

A specialized foster home may not be licensed for more than one child without prior approval of the regional administrator.

### Eligible Children

A child who requires specialized foster includes a child who has:

- a medical condition making the child non-ambulatory;
- a colostomy or feeding tube;
- severe or profound mental retardation;
- a terminal illness;
- cancer;
- blood disorders;
- multiple handicaps;
- burns;
- serious emotional disturbance;
- HIV or AIDS;
- been exposed to drugs or alcohol and exhibits moderate to severe symptoms;
- been diagnosed with fetal alcohol syndrome or effect and exhibits moderate to severe symptoms;

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- other severe physical or mental health problems, but whose needs are more appropriately met in a family setting; or
- a child who is receiving prescribed physical therapy.

The child's child protective services specialist will determine if the child's needs require specialized foster care.

**Licensing process** Once the regional administrator has provided written approval of the specialized foster care plan for the child, the child's child protective services specialist shall work with the FRS to determine the ability of the prospective specialized foster family to meet the needs of the child, or to request assistance in identifying a family able to meet the child's needs.

When an FRS determines that a foster home is able to meet the child's special needs, the recommendation for approval as a specialized foster home is submitted to the FRS supervisor. The FRS supervisor will approve or deny the specialized foster home license.

**CAPS** The FRS should notify the placing worker when the specialized license has been approved. **The specialized license must be approved before the worker will be able to enter the specialized foster care service on SERP.**

**Intensive Training and Supervision** In addition to meeting the training requirements for a family foster home license, the specialized foster parents must have a demonstrated ability to meet the specific needs of the child or receive pre-service training on the special problem area.

**CAPS** The training must be approved by the FRS and will be recorded in the same manner as regular foster parent training on PRTD (Provider Training Detail).

**Payment**  
**CAPS** The specialized foster care rate will be paid only for those children named on the license specifically identified as requiring specialized foster care. Payment will be entered on SERP, using service code PSFPC.

If a child in specialized foster care needs hospitalization, the foster parents may continue to receive payment for up to one month or longer with the approval of the regional administrator. During the child's hospitalization, the foster parent is expected

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to continue regular contact with the child, such as visitation in the hospital.

**References**

Admin. R. Mont.37.50.310-320