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(6) After the Department receives the completed foster/pre-adoptive application, the Department shall, arrange for the foster/pre-adoptive applicant to attend the Department's approved foster/pre-adoptive service orientation, education and support training program for the type of foster care they seek to provide. The training program will include, but not be limited to, the information required by 102 CMR 5.10(2). The training is designed to ensure that the foster/pre-adoptive family will provide adequate foster care (including health care), abide by the foster/pre-adoptive parent agreement, and comply with applicable state and federal laws and regulations. The foster/pre-adoptive applicant's participation will be recorded in the foster/pre-adoptive applicant's record.

7.104: Standards for Licensure as a Foster/Pre-adoptive Parent

In order to be licensed as a foster/adoptive parent, a foster/pre-adoptive parent applicant must meet the following requirements:

- (1) A foster/pre-adoptive parent applicant must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Department the ability:
  - (a) to assure that a child placed in his or her care will experience a safe, supportive, nurturing and stable family environment which is free from abuse or neglect;
  - (b) to assure that a child placed in his or her care will be provided with adequate food, clothing, shelter, supervision and other essential care at all times;
  - (c) to assure that a child placed in his or her care will be provided with routine and emergency medical and dental care;
  - (d) to promote the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of a child placed in his or her care, including supporting and respecting a child's individual identity and needs;
  - (e) to respect and make efforts to support the integrity of a child's racial, ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious background;
  - (f) to manage the stressful situations which are frequently associated with the placement of a child in substitute care, such as the temporary nature of such placement, the integration of a child in crisis into the foster/adoptive family, and the potential return of the child to his/her family;
  - (g) to respect and be bound by the same standards of confidentiality as the Department and its employees;
  - (h) to accept and support the child's relationship with his/her parents, siblings and other family members and with the Department;
  - (i) to assist a child in handling his/her situations such as removal from the home of their parent(s), placement in a new home environment, placement in a new school (when applicable), visits with parents and siblings, and possible return to the home of the parent(s) or placement in other substitute care;
  - (j) to assure that a child placed in his /her care will be expected to attend school regularly and will have the opportunity to participate in an educational program and in extracurricular activities that meet the child's educational and social needs;
  - (k) to work with the Department and the foster child's parents in implementing the child's service plan in order to meet development goals and outcomes;
  - (l) in collaboration with the Department, to develop and participate in an annual plan for trainings, education and support that will assist the foster/pre-adoptive parent in meeting the needs of the child(ren) to be placed in his/her care.
  - (m) to draw upon community and professional resources as needed;
  - (n) to transport children safely, within the standards set by state law;
  - (o) to deal with difficult issues in the child's background, and be able to talk with the child comfortably and constructively about his/her birth parents and family;
  - (p) to have reasonable expectations of a child's behavior and potential growth; and
  - (q) to assume and carry out all other responsibilities of a foster/pre-adoptive parent as detailed in the standard written agreement between the Department and foster/pre-adoptive parents.
- (2) A foster/pre-adoptive parent applicant or any member of her/his household must be free of any physical, mental or emotional illness or handicap which, in the judgment of the Department, would impair his or her ability to assume and carry out the responsibilities of a foster/pre-adoptive parent. However, no illness or handicap in and of itself shall disqualify an individual from becoming a foster/pre-adoptive parent.

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- (3) A foster/pre-adoptive parent applicant or any member of his/her household must have a record which is free of criminal conduct which, in the judgment of the Department, bears upon his/her ability to assume and carry out the responsibilities of a foster/pre-adoptive parent, as established by Department Policy on background checks and 110 CMR 18.00 *et seq.*
- (4) A foster/pre-adoptive parent applicant shall maintain a household that has sufficient income and appropriate fiscal management to maintain stability and security without foster or adoptive parent reimbursement or subsidies provided under 110 CMR 7.130 and 110 CMR 7.209. Foster/adoptive reimbursement and subsidy shall be used to meet the individual needs of the child.
- (5) A foster/pre-adoptive parent applicant must live in a home which meets the requirements for foster/pre-adoptive homes set forth in 110 CMR 7.105.
- (6) A foster/pre-adoptive applicant must be a citizen of the United State or been granted legal permanent resident status, asylum, refugee or other indefinite legal status by U.S. Immigration officials, unless a waiver is granted under 110 CMR 7.105A.
- (7) A foster/pre-adoptive applicant must meet the initial eligibility criteria set forth at 110 CMR 7.100.

7.105: Standards for Licensure of Foster/Pre-adoptive Homes

In order to be licensed as a foster/pre-adoptive parent, a foster/pre-adoptive parent applicant must live in a home which meets the requirements of 102 CMR 5.10(4) and the following requirements:

- (1) The home must be clean; safe; free of obvious fire and other hazards; and of sufficient size to accommodate comfortably and appropriately all members of the household and the approved number of foster/pre-adoptive children.
- (2) The home must have safe and adequate lighting, ventilation, hot and cold water supply, plumbing, electricity, and heat.
- (3) The home must be furnished with a refrigerator and cooking stove in safe, working condition.
- (4) No foster child over one year of age shall share a bedroom with an adult, except if the foster children had been sharing a bedroom in the foster home prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and one of the children turns 18 years of age.
- (5) The home must have sufficient furniture to allow each child to sleep in a separate bed and to have adequate storage space for his or her personal belongings.
- (6) No foster child over four years of age, except for siblings up to age eight, shall share a bedroom with a child of the opposite sex.
- (7) The home must have bedrooms which provide at least 50 square feet per child, except the Department may waive this requirement for kinship homes if the bedrooms provide at least 35 square feet per child, and shall accommodate no more than four children per bedroom.
- (8) No bedroom to be used by foster children shall be located above the second floor unless any such floor has two safe means of egress.
- (9) No bedroom to be used by foster children shall be located below the first floor unless it contains a ground level, standard door exit and at least one operable window.
- (10) Each floor of the home, including the basement, shall be equipped with smoke detectors in working order.
- (11) If the home uses well water, it shall be tested and determined safe, and a report of the test shall be furnished to the Department.