

 <b>VERMONT</b> DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>221</h1>
<b>Chapter:</b>	Residential Licensing and Special Investigations	
<b>Subject:</b>	Foster Care Licensing	Page 1 of 13
<b>Approved:</b>	Karen Shea, Deputy Commissioner	Effective: 4/19/2018
<b>Supersedes:</b>	Family Services Policy 220 Family Services Policy 221 Family Services Policy 222 Family Services Policy 223	Dated: 7/22/1998 Dated: 8/1/2002 Dated: 1/11/2006 Dated: 7/22/1998

## Purpose

To outline licensing procedures for foster homes.

## Table of Contents

Purpose.....	1
Table of Contents.....	1
Related Policies & Regulations .....	1
Forms.....	1
Definitions.....	2
Policy .....	3
Application for Licensure .....	3
Application with No Child Placed .....	3
Application with a Child Placed (District-Approved Unlicensed Placements) .....	4
Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) Home Study Requests.....	5
Authority Regarding Placement of Children and Youth in Foster Care.....	6
Evaluation of Foster Care Application .....	6
Issuance of Licenses .....	8
Limits or Limitations.....	8
Variances to Foster Care Regulations .....	8
Withdrawal of Application .....	9
Denial of Application.....	10
Amendments and Ongoing Review of Existing Licenses.....	10
Renewal of Licenses.....	13

## Related Policies & Regulations

Family Services [Policy 220](#): Role and Functions of RLSI  
Family Services [Policy 222](#): Foster Care Interventions  
Family Services [Policy 224](#): Child Care by Resource Families  
[Regulations for Foster Homes in Vermont](#)

## Forms

[FS-221A](#)      Application for Care of Children in DCF Custody  
[FS-221B](#)      Renewal Application for Care of Children in DCF Custody

 <b>VERMONT</b> DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>221</h1>
Chapter:	Residential Licensing and Special Investigations	
Subject:	Foster Care Licensing	Page 2 of 13

- [FS-221C](#) Request for Regulation Variance or Capacity Change
- [FS-221D](#) Request to Modify a Foster Care License
- [FS-221E](#) Foster Home Change of Residence
- [FS-221F](#) Request for Parent to Reside with Child in DCF Custody

## Definitions

**Amendment:** A modification to a limitation, capacity, variance, or term of an existing license.

**Capacity:** The number of children a home is licensed to provide care for.

**Child Care:** Licensed child care, registered child care, legally exempt child care, and unregulated care of children on a regular and continuous basis for compensation.

**Condition:** A time limited requirement to which the licensee shall achieve compliance prior to issuance of a license.

**Denial:** The formal decision of the state licensing authority to not grant a foster home license to an applicant.

**Foster Care:** The care of a child, for a valuable consideration, in a child care institution or in a family other than that of the child's parent, guardian, or relative (33 V.S.A. § 4902). Foster care of a child to exceed 15 days must be licensed per 33 V.S.A. § 4905.

**Family Foster Care:** Foster care provided in a family home on a 24-hour basis.

- **Community Foster Care:** Family foster care provided by individuals who are not relative/kin or fictive kin.
- **Kinship Foster Care:** Family foster care provided by a relative/kin or fictive kin.

**Family Foster Home:** The physical premises in which family foster care is provided and the household members reside.

**Foster Parent:** A person licensed to provide family foster care; a person required by state law to be so licensed.

**Family Foster Care License:** Authorization from the state licensing authority for an individual(s) to provide family foster care. The license shall identify the individual(s); the family foster home physical address; term as defined by effective and expiration dates; capacity, and any limitations or variances.

 <b>VERMONT</b> DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>221</h1>
Chapter:	Residential Licensing and Special Investigations	
Subject:	Foster Care Licensing	Page 3 of 13

**Household Member:** Any person, whether a family member or not, who lives, sleeps, or regularly utilizes the common areas in the foster home.

**Limit or Limitation:** Specific restrictions imposed on the license. Examples of such restrictions may include the age of children in care and/or specific children in care. Other restrictions may also be imposed.

**Respite Care:** Planned care intended to provide a break for the child or youth’s caregiver.

**Revocation:** The formal invalidation, for cause, of a license by the licensing authority.

**Variance:** An exception to a rule granted by the licensing authority in circumstances when the immediate or literal application of a rule would result in unnecessary hardship for the licensee or for a child and family; and when the intent of the rule can be achieved by other means.

## Policy

### Application for Licensure

Applications for family foster care are received as:

- General inquiries to provide foster care; or
- Applications specific to the care of a particular child.

Applications related to a specific child includes out-of-state [Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children](#) (ICPC) requests for home studies.

### Application with No Child Placed

District office staff provide the applicant with the [FS-221A](#) (Application for Care of Children in DCF Custody). The applicant will complete the application and return it to the district office. District office staff will electronically forward the application to the RLSI administrative mailbox ([AHS.DCFFSDRLSIAdmin@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.DCFFSDRLSIAdmin@vermont.gov)). The email subject line should contain the phrase “No Child Placed”.

RLSI will complete the licensure process as described by this policy within 120 days assuming (1) the receipt of a fully completed application and (2) the applicant’s compliance with the background check and evaluation processes.

 <b>VERMONT</b> DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>221</h1>
Chapter:	Residential Licensing and Special Investigations	
Subject:	Foster Care Licensing	Page 4 of 13

**Application with a Child Placed (District-Approved Unlicensed Placements)**

District office staff shall exercise caution when recommending the placement of a child or youth in a district-approved unlicensed foster home. The risks are heightened when placing a young person in a home with caregivers who have not been evaluated through the full licensing process by RLSI. Prior to requesting approval from the district director, district office staff shall:

- Provide the applicant with the [FS-221A](#) (Application for Care of Children in DCF Custody) and ensure the applicant fully completes it;
- Review the application for significant concerns;
- Run the names (current, maiden, and any previously used names) of all household members ages 16 and older through a Vermont Court Access System (VCAS) check and DCF master index check;
- Conduct a home visit with the applicants as a preliminary assessment of their caregiving abilities and to ensure the structure of the home is safe;
- Inspect the applicant’s home to verify the licensing compliance documentation expectations have been satisfied; AND
- Document these efforts and a recommendation of placement approval or disapproval on the *District Office Assessment of Unlicensed Placement Form*.

District directors, at the request of district office staff, may approve or disapprove of placement in an unlicensed foster home. When district directors approve of an unlicensed placement and sign the *District Office Assessment of Unlicensed Placement Form*, they are confirming that all required checks, a home visit, and preliminary assessment of the applicants have occurred. If a placement is being made outside of the district office’s geographic boundaries, the placing district director will notify the other district director.

District-approved unlicensed placements should only be made when it is in the best interests of the child, particularly in instances where the child can be placed with a relative or someone known to them. The division must strive to ensure the safety and well-being of children and youth in these district-approved unlicensed placements.

In addition to the above steps, district office staff must do the following prior to placing a child in a district-approved unlicensed home:

- Provide the caregivers with a completed copy of the [Child Information & Placement Checklist](#) as required by Family Services [Policy 94](#); and
- Provide the caregivers with a completed [Foster Parent Authorization Letter](#) (containing both caregivers’ names, if applicable) as required by Family Services [Policy 77](#) and [Policy 94](#).

 <b>VERMONT</b> DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>221</h1>
Chapter:	Residential Licensing and Special Investigations	
Subject:	Foster Care Licensing	Page 5 of 13

District staff **shall not** place a child or youth if any of the following apply:

- The applicants or household members have a history of multiple, recent, violent, or substance abuse related criminal charges or convictions; or
- The applicants or household members have any child abuse substantiations or pre-1992 findings of abuse; or
- The applicants or household members have an active relief from abuse order(s); or
- The applicants or household members are currently under the supervision of the Department of Corrections (DOC); or
- There is an open DCF-FSD case regarding any household member.

Further assessment by RLSI shall occur in these situations prior to the placement of a child in the home.

District office staff must obtain district director approval and complete licensing compliance documentation for each and any subsequent child placed in an unlicensed home. Placement in an unlicensed home is always child-specific. District office staff may not assign a capacity to a family foster home.

District office staff will electronically submit the application within 24 hours of placement to the RLSI administrative mailbox ([AHS.DCFSDRLSIAdmin@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.DCFSDRLSIAdmin@vermont.gov)). The email subject line should contain the phrase “Child Placed”.

RLSI will complete all additional background checks within 24 hours of receipt during business days. RLSI administrative staff will notify RLSI supervisors or the RLSI director for review of any concerning background information and notify the district office as warranted.

RLSI will prioritize the licensing evaluation of unlicensed district-approved foster care over foster care applications with no child placed in a home. The issuance of a license to an applicant seeking placement of a specific child does not require placement of that child with the licensee.

#### Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) Home Study Requests

Other states will request assessments of a potential caregiver in Vermont for placement of custodial youth. At the request of Vermont’s ICPC office, RLSI will complete a home study which will include a foster parent licensing evaluation and an assessment to determine if the family can meet the child’s needs. RLSI will share recommendations for placement and/or licensure. Vermont’s deputy compact administrator retains the final

 <b>VERMONT</b> DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>221</h1>
Chapter:	Residential Licensing and Special Investigations	
Subject:	Foster Care Licensing	Page 6 of 13

authority regarding the approval or denial of the placement. The deputy compact administrator will communicate the decision and recommendations to the sending state. Home studies regarding the placement of children or youth with a biological/legal parent do not necessitate a family foster care license but do require a home study.

#### Authority Regarding Placement of Children and Youth in Foster Care

The RLSI director or designee shall direct district office staff to remove children or youth from a home if the evaluation determines:

- The child or youth’s safety or welfare is significantly compromised; or
- The applicant is subject to denial or revocation; or
- The licensee becomes non-compliant with the licensing application process timeframes.

If RLSI assesses immediate danger to the child or youth, RLSI will direct district office staff to remove the child by the end of the business day. The RLSI director or designee must approve RLSI requests for removal of children from current placements.

Placements in district-approved unlicensed homes subject to impending licensure denial or placements that present significant risk with no immediate danger will result in RLSI notification to district staff that the child or youth must be moved within two weeks of notice.

#### Evaluation of Foster Care Application

##### Background Checks

Upon receipt of application, RLSI will complete the following background checks.

RLSI will initiate the finger print supported background check process by mailing the applicant an instruction packet and necessary materials. Fingerprint supported background check results must be received by RLSI within 90 days of a child being placed in the home or the application will be withdrawn or denied and any children in the home must be removed from the home within two weeks of notification. This will only occur if RLSI determines that the delay in obtaining fingerprints is the fault of the applicant.

RLSI will initiate the Adam Walsh child abuse registry check process upon receipt of application by requesting information from the child welfare agency of states in which applicant(s) resided within the past 5 years. RLSI will not issue a license until the results are received.

 <b>VERMONT</b> DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>221</h1>
Chapter:	Residential Licensing and Special Investigations	
Subject:	Foster Care Licensing	Page 7 of 13

Additional background checks are completed for all applicants and household members aged 16 and older:

- Vermont Crime Information Center (VCIC) criminal history;
- Vermont Child Abuse Registry check;
- Vermont Adult Abuse Registry check;
- Vermont Case Access System (VCAS) for history of abuse prevention orders;
- VT Department of Corrections (DOC) database;
- VT DMV motor vehicle record check; and
- VT Immunization Registry check.

RLSI completes one additional check for applicants only:

- VT Office of Child Support Child Support Arrearage

Any concerns revealed by these checks will be evaluated based on the potential impact on the physical safety of the child(ren), the emotional well-being of the child(ren), and appropriate role-modeling. Among the factors to be considered are:

- The nature of the concern/offense;
- How recent the concern/offense occurred;
- Number or frequency of concerns/offenses;
- Age of the person at the time;
- Attitude of the person towards the offense; and
- Evidence of rehabilitation.

When the person of concern is not the applicant, the ability and willingness of the applicant to provide appropriate protection from the person of concern will be assessed.

Offenses against people are considered more serious than offenses against property. Offenses that reflect violence or any offense against a child will be explored, no matter how long ago they occurred. All such offenses will be identified and discussed in the licensing process.

Per 42 U.S.C. § 471, an applicant for foster care, kinship care or adoption shall not be approved or licensed if the applicant has a felony conviction for:

- Child abuse or neglect, spousal abuse, a crime against children (including child pornography), or a crime involving violence, including rape, sexual assault, or homicide, but not including other physical assault or battery; or
- Physical assault, battery, or a drug-related offense within the past 5 years.

### **Applicant Interview and Site Evaluation**

An RLSI Family Services worker will be assigned the licensing evaluation to include:

- Educating the applicant on the licensing process and foster care regulations;

 <b>VERMONT</b> DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>221</h1>
<b>Chapter:</b>	Residential Licensing and Special Investigations	
<b>Subject:</b>	Foster Care Licensing	Page 8 of 13

- Visiting and inspecting the family foster care home and premises;
- Interviewing applicant foster parents and other household members deemed necessary by RLSI;
- Assessing the applicant’s compliance with each regulation;
- Discussing areas of non-compliance and steps to achieve compliance;
- Reviewing areas of concern indicated on the application and in the background checks as noted above;
- Collecting third party references as appropriate; and
- Completion of a licensing evaluation report and recommendation.

**Issuance of Licenses**

Initial and renewed licenses will be valid for up to three years at the discretion of RLSI. Licenses may be issued for a shorter period.

A family foster care license, once issued, is defined by the following parameters:

- The names/identities of the foster parent(s);
- The physical address of the foster home;
- The term between the effective or amended date and the expiration date;
- Any limitations that are placed on the license; and
- Capacity.

**Limits or Limitations**

RLSI may place limitations on foster care licenses based on family circumstances and in accord with regulations. This may be done at licensure or at any time during the term of the license. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Care of a specific child or youth;
- Age, gender, and developmental needs of children able to be placed in the home; and
- Which household members may not be allowed to transport youth.

Limitations will be reviewed during licensing renewal process. Child-specific licenses do not automatically close when the child moves from the home. The child-specific license will be reviewed in consultation with the foster parent(s) for closure or continuation as a community foster care license.

**Variances to Foster Care Regulations**

In limited circumstances, variances may be granted to existing foster care regulations. Variances may be granted when the licensing authority determines that the applicant or

 <b>VERMONT</b> DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>221</h1>
Chapter:	Residential Licensing and Special Investigations	
Subject:	Foster Care Licensing	Page 9 of 13

licensee will otherwise meet the spirit of the regulation. The foremost consideration in this determination is that the safety of the child or youth is not compromised.

Variations may be granted for the term of the license or for a shorter, defined period as determined by RLSI.

Variations to regulations considered essential to the safety of children and youth in the home will not be granted. Of particular importance are regulations regarding significant criminal or child welfare history, fire egress, firearm storage, and caretaker capacity.

Non-safety related variations for limited, child-specific kinship care is encouraged. Examples of this may include bedroom configurations, financial stability, health, and minor background check concerns that do not compromise safety. Evaluation is at the discretion of RLSI staff. All other applicants and licensees should not require significant variance to regulation.

Variations may be requested by the applicant or licensee in communication with district office staff or RLSI staff. The request will be submitted by district office staff on the [FS-221C](#) (Request for Regulation Variance or Capacity Change) and sent to the RLSI administrative mailbox ([AHS.DCFSDRLSIAdmin@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.DCFSDRLSIAdmin@vermont.gov)).

The request will outline:

- the specific regulation;
- reason;
- explanation of how intent of regulation is otherwise met;
- an evaluation of the request by RLSI staff; and
- documentation of approval decision by RLSI supervisor or director.

All variations will be approved at the RLSI supervisory level. Additional limits may be placed on the license due to granting of variance. Documentation will be placed in the foster care file. All existing variations will be reviewed at the time of foster care license renewal and will otherwise remain in place.

#### **Withdrawal of Application**

Applicants may voluntarily withdraw their application. If an applicant chooses to reapply within 90 days of withdrawing, the original application and processed work can be reactivated without a new application.

When there is an unresolved concern that was identified during a licensing evaluation process, the applicant name(s) may be flagged in the foster care database for future

 <b>VERMONT</b> DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>221</h1>
Chapter:	Residential Licensing and Special Investigations	
Subject:	Foster Care Licensing	Page 10 of 13

licensing evaluation. If the applicant applies again in the future, it is expected that the identified issues will be revisited at that time.

If an applicant is non-responsive or fails to complete the licensure process as described in this policy, the application will be withdrawn following a written notification.

#### Denial of Application

Denial of foster care application will adhere to the standards set in regulation. All denials will be approved by the RLSI director.

If at any point the RLSI Family Services worker, in consultation with an RLSI supervisor, determines that the applicant does not substantially meet regulations, the licensing report will recommend denial. The denial decision will be approved by the RLSI director after recommendation by the RLSI supervisor and worker. The applicant will be informed in writing of this decision. The letter will note specific areas of noncompliance and inform the applicant of the process to appeal the denial.

#### Amendments and Ongoing Review of Existing Licenses

RLSI is responsible for amendments to an existing license. Requests may come from the foster parent, district office staff, or RLSI staff. Amendments will be approved by RLSI at the supervisory level. Decisions will be made within 30 days of the request.

#### Exceeding Capacity in a Family Foster Care Home

District director approval is required for requests to exceed the licensed capacity of a foster home. Requests to exceed the licensed capacity of a foster home must be made prior to placement of the child or youth. Exceeding capacity can compromise the safety and placement stability of all youth in the home. District staff must submit the [FS-221C](#) (Request for Regulation Variance or Capacity Change) and send it to the RLSI administrative mailbox at [AHS.DCFSDRLSIAdmin@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.DCFSDRLSIAdmin@vermont.gov).

RLSI may approve a request to exceed licensed capacity when:

- The placement is the result of an emergency;
- No other appropriate placement is available; and
- The home in question can accommodate the additional child(ren) without disrupting the safety and quality of care provided to children already in the home.

Centralized Intake and Emergency Services (CIES) may grant temporary emergency overcapacity requests upon receipt and evaluation of the above information. RLSI will reevaluate the request upon the next business day.

 <b>VERMONT</b> DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>221</h1>
Chapter:	Residential Licensing and Special Investigations	
Subject:	Foster Care Licensing	Page 11 of 13

The request from district office staff to exceed capacity will contain:

- The reason for the request;
- Current status of placed children and youth in home with evidence of an assessment by their assigned worker as to the potential impact of the new placement;
- Assessment of the current capacity of the foster parents and their ability to take on the additional responsibility; and
- How long in days the overcapacity is needed.

No open-ended requests will be granted as emergency overcapacity requests; these should be requested as a change to the foster home’s permanent capacity.

The RLSI supervisor, upon receipt of the request and prior to approval, will:

- Review request within 72 hours;
- Review the current foster care file and any intervention history;
- Determine if it is necessary to send an RLSI Family Service worker for a site visit; and
- As needed, have a direct conversation with the foster parent or request additional information from the district office.

RLSI will not approve any requests that also require a regulation variance to overall capacity limits as described in regulation without a site visit and contact with the foster parent.

RLSI cannot grant overcapacity requests for district-approved unlicensed foster homes. These homes are approved by the district director specific to the placed children until the licensing process is complete. District directors shall not violate foster care capacity regulations when approving additional placements in unlicensed homes.

RLSI will not grant overcapacity requests when a home is under regulatory intervention, child safety intervention, or under impending revocation. See Family Services [Policy 222](#) for additional information.

### **Changes to Permanent Capacity**

Requests for permanent increases in licensed capacity will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. All requests will be documented on the [FS-221C](#) (Request for Regulation Variance or Capacity Change) and submitted to the RLSI administrative mailbox ([AHS.DCFSDRLSIAdmin@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.DCFSDRLSIAdmin@vermont.gov)). Amendments will be approved by RLSI at the supervisory level. Decisions will be made within 30 days of the request.

 <b>VERMONT</b> DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>221</h1>
Chapter:	Residential Licensing and Special Investigations	
Subject:	Foster Care Licensing	Page 12 of 13

### **Change in Household Composition**

District office staff will notify RLSI of any changes in the household composition of a family foster home (excluding the placement or removal of foster children). All requests will be documented on the [FS-221D](#) (Request to Modify a Foster Care License) and sent to the RLSI administrative mailbox ([AHS.DCFSDRLSIAdmin@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.DCFSDRLSIAdmin@vermont.gov)).

Licensees are required to do so by regulation.

RLSI will conduct necessary background and registry checks. Based on the nature of the change and the results of background checks, RLSI will determine if further licensing review and/or amendment of the license is necessary.

If the additional household member presents a danger, RLSI will notify the district office and the foster parent within 24 hours and share the required expectation regarding mitigating the danger. This may include moving placed children unless the foster parent agrees to remove the household member.

A new spouse or partner must apply as a new applicant and meet all foster care licensing requirements.

### **Changes to the Residence or Physical Location**

Whenever possible, district office staff will notify RLSI of an anticipated change of a foster parent’s residence. All notifications will be documented on the [FS-221E](#) (Foster Home Change of Residence) and sent to the RLSI administrative mailbox ([AHS.DCFSDRLSIAdmin@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.DCFSDRLSIAdmin@vermont.gov)). Licensees are required to notify the licensing authority per regulation.

When a foster family moves to a new residence, an RLSI site visit must occur to evaluate the physical facility. If a foster child is in the home at the time of the foster family’s move, district office staff must visit the home within 3 business days of the child moving, complete the [FS-221E](#), and submit it to RLSI. RLSI will assign a worker to visit the home and fully review within 30 days. If all regulations are met, RLSI will issue an amended license.

If there is no foster child in the home at the time of the move, a worker from RLSI will be assigned to complete a site visit and complete the [FS-221E](#). If all regulations are met, RLSI will approve the issuance of an amended license.

### **Requests for a Parent to Reside with Child in DCF Custody**

As stated in Family Services [Policy 94](#), there are times when it is beneficial for a parent of a child in DCF custody to reside in the same licensed foster home with their child. In

 <b>VERMONT</b> DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>221</h1>
Chapter:	Residential Licensing and Special Investigations	
Subject:	Foster Care Licensing	Page 13 of 13

such circumstances, the parent is considered a household member in the licensed home and the licensee is the child’s primary caregiver. RLSI must approve the arrangement before the parent joins the household. These requests are made through the [FS-221F](#) (Request for Parent to Reside with Child in DCF Custody).

#### Renewal of Licenses

Foster care licenses shall, at minimum, be renewed every three years. RLSI has the discretion to issue licenses that have a shorter term. Renewals are requested using the [FS-221B](#) (Renewal Application for Care of Children in DCF Custody).

Two months prior to expiration, RLSI will send a renewal application to the licensee, and request information from district offices on each family due for renewal. Upon receipt of the completed renewal application, RLSI will complete all background checks as noted above, excepting fingerprint supported background checks which will not be required at renewal if the foster home remains continuously licensed. The assigned RLSI staff will evaluate all information received:

- If the information is complete, there have been no significant changes, foster parents have been interviewed, and there is no indication of non-compliance to regulations, a renewal report is generated and up to three-year license is issued.
- If information is incomplete, or if there have been significant changes or concerns noted, RLSI staff will evaluate further to determine compliance. A site visit may occur at the discretion of the RLSI supervisor. A report is generated, and, if appropriate, a three-year license is issued.

RLSI must receive applications for renewal prior to the license expiration date for the licensee to be considered continuously licensed.

If a foster parent closes their license in good standing but seeks to re-activate their license within 12 months of closure, the foster parent license may be re-issued (with the original term of licensure) and the licensee will be considered continuously licensed. This decision is RLSI’s sole discretion.