 VERMONT DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>90</h1>
Chapter:	Placing Children and Youth	
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Approved:	Karen Shea, Deputy Commissioner	Effective: 2/8/2018
Supersedes:	Family Services Policy 90	Dated: 7/1/2004

Definitions

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.

Child and Family Support Team: A team of professionals and non-professionals, including the worker, caregivers, parents, and youth that are collaborating to assist the family in meeting the goals of the case plan. Members of the child and family support team may also be members of the safety network.

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.

Fictive Kin: A non-relative who has such significant ties to the child that they may be regarded as kin.

Foster Parent or Foster Family: A person licensed to provide family foster care. The term “foster parent” is often used interchangeably with “resource parent” and “caregiver”.


Kin: A relative by blood, marriage, or adoption OR a non-relative who has such significant ties to the child that they may be regarded as kin.

Respite Care: Planned care intended to provide a break for the child or youth’s caregiver. There are two types of respite care – formal and informal.

Safety Network: Family, friends, and community members who care about the child and are willing to take action to support the family and keep the child safe. They are willing to engage child protection staff and understand the concerns. A safety network may also include professionals.

Policy

The Department for Children and Families (DCF), Family Services Division (FSD) will provide out-of-home care for children and youth in DCF custody only in facilities licensed by the department, unless:

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- the child is placed with a relative or other person the division has approved as a suitable placement for the child and who is in application for licensure as a foster home;
- a child placing agency licensed by the department to approve foster homes has approved a foster home;
- the placement is out-of-state and approved through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) or the Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ); or
- the placement is an independent school with a residential component approved by the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) or equivalent in another state.