 VERMONT DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>232</h1>
Chapter:	Residential Licensing	
Subject:	Staffed Foster Homes	Page 1 of 2
Approved:	James Morse, Commissioner	Effective: 7/22/98 FINAL
Supersedes:	Interim Casework Procedure 8401 and Licensing Policy 3100	Dated: 11/5/96 & 9/19/90

Purpose

To outline requirements of approval of foster homes with full-time staff hired by licensed child placing agencies or a residential child care facility.

Policy

Type of License


Staffed Foster Homes will be considered extensions of the agency or facility that operate them, rather than as independent homes. They will be subsumed under the agency's or facility's license. Foster home staff will be considered employees of the agency or facility. It is the responsibility of the agency or facility to assure that all relevant regulations are met.

Introduction

A staffed foster home is a program operated by a child placing agency or residential child care facility in a foster home-like setting owned or leased by the agency or facility using hired, full-time staff as foster parents.

This kind of program is typically designed to meet the needs of children not needing the intensive supervision of a residential facility, but not able to return to a traditional community setting. A staffed foster home resembles a traditional foster home in its physical facility, which is a single-family residence. Staff more closely resembles a residential child care facility with some exceptions.

In the absence of specific regulations, this policy is designed to provide licensing oversight in a way that recognizes the unique character of staffed foster homes.

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Relevance of Foster Home Regulations

Agency Staffed Foster Homes must meet all licensing regulations for family foster homes. In addition, the agency must meet additional requirements:

- If the home is the responsibility of a licensed child placing agency, they must meet the requirements of Section 108 (Children’s Case Records), Sections 200-106.01.6 (Staffing Requirements) and Section 407 (Case Management) from the Licensing Regulations for Child Placing Agencies.
- If the home is the responsibility of a residential child care facility, they must meet the requirements of Section 109 (Children’s’ Case Records), Section 303-305.01.6 (Staffing Requirements), Section 503 (Service Planning and Child Management) and Section 504 (Discharge and Aftercare).

Application for Licensure

When the sponsoring agency or facility notifies Residential Licensing of its intent to establish staffed foster home(s), the agency will also submit or update:

- a job description outlining the duties of staffed foster home personnel;
- a plan for hiring personnel that includes interviews addressing the applicant's specialized skills and abilities that make them suitable for the job;
- plans for training and supervision that recognizes the special pressures that may be present in a staffed foster home setting; and,
- a plan for appropriate lines of communication with foster home staff.

Physical Facility

The RLU licensor will inspect the proposed foster home to ensure compliance with physical regulations for foster homes.

Re-licensing

During the next re-licensure of the agency or facility, the licensing team will visit staffed foster homes to interview foster home staff and to ensure continuing compliance with regulations.