

Foster Family Licensing Requirements

The DHS Office of Licensing (OL) develops all foster rules collaboratively with the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Utah Foster Care, the Youth Provider's Association, Foster Families of Utah, licensed foster homes, licensed child placing foster agencies, and a variety of other stakeholders.

The guiding principles of each rule update is to create rules that promote the health and safety of foster children while also creating sustainable and reasonable standards for foster parents. Rules address items such as storage of hazardous chemicals, emergency plans, transportation, medication management, etc.

Utah foster care rule and federal law both allow for more lenient standards for relatives of a foster child. Content is largely determined at the local level, although federal standards do set minimal requirements regarding background checks via the Adam Walsh bill.

In the Fall of 2014 foster care rules were completely redone with an emphasis on easing and clarifying foster care rule to make it more realistic for foster parents without compromising health and safety of foster children. Emphasis has also been on consistency of application by individual licensors across the state. Another less extensive update was done in the Fall of 2015.

Process

for licensing foster families:

1. **Recruitment and foster care training:** Accomplished through Utah Foster Care, including:
 - Initial consultation
 - Kinship online training, licensure for specific child, encourage classroom follow up
 - Foster parent 32-hour online training
 - Support for foster parents: Clusters, RFCs, KFCs, respite accrual one hour per child, babysit support from other licensed individuals
2. **Complete Application:** Submitted to the Office of Licensing
3. **Gather paperwork:** Emergency plan, medical clearance, letters of reference, income verification, background checks, etc.)
4. **Conduct home study:** Comprehensive interview to determine appropriate placement
5. **Conduct home safety visit:** Ensure safe physical environment in accordance with rules

By the Numbers

1281

Currently Licensed
Foster Homes

1077

General Foster Care Licenses

204

Family/Friend Specific Licenses

3

Homes Denied Licensure
in FY16 for Unmet
Licensing Requirements