

**AMENDMENTS TO CHILD WELFARE**

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Wayne A. Harper**

House Sponsor: Stewart E. Barlow

---

---

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends the numerical limits of foster children residing in a foster home.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ amends the definition of foster home; and
- ▶ allows the division to exceed the numerical limit of foster children placed in a foster home to permit a sibling group who re-enters foster care to return to a previous foster home.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**62A-2-101**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2016, Chapters 122, 211, and 342

ENACTS:

**62A-2-116.5**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

---

---

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **62A-2-101** is amended to read:



28 **62A-2-101. Definitions.**

29 As used in this chapter:

30 (1) "Adult day care" means nonresidential care and supervision:

31 (a) for three or more adults for at least four but less than 24 hours a day; and

32 (b) that meets the needs of functionally impaired adults through a comprehensive  
33 program that provides a variety of health, social, recreational, and related support services in a  
34 protective setting.

35 (2) "Applicant" means a person who applies for an initial license or a license renewal  
36 under this chapter.

37 (3) (a) "Associated with the licensee" means that an individual is:

38 (i) affiliated with a licensee as an owner, director, member of the governing body,  
39 employee, agent, provider of care, department contractor, or volunteer; or

40 (ii) applying to become affiliated with a licensee in a capacity described in Subsection  
41 (3)(a)(i).

42 (b) "Associated with the licensee" does not include:

43 (i) service on the following bodies, unless that service includes direct access to a child  
44 or a vulnerable adult:

45 (A) a local mental health authority described in Section 17-43-301;

46 (B) a local substance abuse authority described in Section 17-43-201; or

47 (C) a board of an organization operating under a contract to provide mental health or  
48 substance abuse programs, or services for the local mental health authority or substance abuse  
49 authority; or

50 (ii) a guest or visitor whose access to a child or a vulnerable adult is directly supervised  
51 at all times.

52 (4) (a) "Boarding school" means a private school that:

53 (i) uses a regionally accredited education program;

54 (ii) provides a residence to the school's students:

55 (A) for the purpose of enabling the school's students to attend classes at the school; and

56 (B) as an ancillary service to educating the students at the school;

57 (iii) has the primary purpose of providing the school's students with an education, as  
58 defined in Subsection (4)(b)(i); and

59 (iv) (A) does not provide the treatment or services described in Subsection (28)(a); or  
60 (B) provides the treatment or services described in Subsection (28)(a) on a limited  
61 basis, as described in Subsection (4)(b)(ii).

62 (b) (i) For purposes of Subsection (4)(a)(iii), "education" means a course of study for  
63 one or more of grades kindergarten through 12th grade.

64 (ii) For purposes of Subsection (4)(a)(iv)(B), a private school provides the treatment or  
65 services described in Subsection (28)(a) on a limited basis if:

66 (A) the treatment or services described in Subsection (28)(a) are provided only as an  
67 incidental service to a student; and

68 (B) the school does not:

69 (I) specifically solicit a student for the purpose of providing the treatment or services  
70 described in Subsection (28)(a); or

71 (II) have a primary purpose of providing the treatment or services described in  
72 Subsection (28)(a).

73 (c) "Boarding school" does not include a therapeutic school.

74 (5) "Child" means a person under 18 years of age.

75 (6) "Child placing" means receiving, accepting, or providing custody or care for any  
76 child, temporarily or permanently, for the purpose of:

77 (a) finding a person to adopt the child;

78 (b) placing the child in a home for adoption; or

79 (c) foster home placement.

80 (7) "Client" means an individual who receives or has received services from a licensee.

81 (8) "Day treatment" means specialized treatment that is provided to:

82 (a) a client less than 24 hours a day; and

83 (b) four or more persons who:

84 (i) are unrelated to the owner or provider; and

85 (ii) have emotional, psychological, developmental, physical, or behavioral  
86 dysfunctions, impairments, or chemical dependencies.

87 (9) "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

88 (10) "Department contractor" means an individual who:

89 (a) provides services under a contract with the department; and

90 (b) due to the contract with the department, has or will likely have direct access to a  
91 child or vulnerable adult.

92 (11) "Direct access" means that an individual has, or likely will have:

93 (a) contact with or access to a child or vulnerable adult that provides the individual  
94 with an opportunity for personal communication or touch; or

95 (b) an opportunity to view medical, financial, or other confidential personal identifying  
96 information of the child, the child's parents or legal guardians, or the vulnerable adult.

97 (12) "Directly supervised" means that an individual is being supervised under the  
98 uninterrupted visual and auditory surveillance of another individual who has a current  
99 background screening approval issued by the office.

100 (13) "Director" means the director of the Office of Licensing.

101 (14) "Domestic violence" means the same as that term is defined in Section 77-36-1.

102 (15) "Domestic violence treatment program" means a nonresidential program designed  
103 to provide psychological treatment and educational services to perpetrators and victims of  
104 domestic violence.

105 (16) "Elder adult" means a person 65 years of age or older.

106 (17) "Executive director" means the executive director of the department.

107 (18) "Foster home" means a ~~[temporary residential living environment for the care of:]~~  
108 residence that is licensed or certified by the Office of Licensing for the full-time substitute care  
109 of a child.

110 ~~[(a) (i) fewer than five foster children in the home of a licensed foster parent; or]~~

111 ~~[(ii) five or more foster children in the home of a licensed foster parent if there are no~~  
112 ~~foster children or if there is one foster child in the home at the time of the placement of a~~  
113 ~~sibling group; or]~~

114 ~~[(b) (i) fewer than four foster children in the home of a certified foster parent; or]~~

115 ~~[(ii) four or more foster children in the home of a certified foster parent if there are no~~  
116 ~~foster children or if there is one foster child in the home at the time of the placement of a~~  
117 ~~sibling group.]~~

118 (19) (a) "Human services program" means a:

119 (i) foster home;

120 (ii) therapeutic school;

- 121 (iii) youth program;
- 122 (iv) resource family home;
- 123 (v) recovery residence; or
- 124 (vi) facility or program that provides:
  - 125 (A) secure treatment;
  - 126 (B) inpatient treatment;
  - 127 (C) residential treatment;
  - 128 (D) residential support;
  - 129 (E) adult day care;
  - 130 (F) day treatment;
  - 131 (G) outpatient treatment;
  - 132 (H) domestic violence treatment;
  - 133 (I) child placing services;
  - 134 (J) social detoxification; or
  - 135 (K) any other human services that are required by contract with the department to be
  - 136 licensed with the department.
- 137 (b) "Human services program" does not include a boarding school.
- 138 (20) "Licensee" means an individual or a human services program licensed by the
- 139 office.
- 140 (21) "Local government" means a city, town, metro township, or county.
- 141 (22) "Minor" has the same meaning as "child."
- 142 (23) "Office" means the Office of Licensing within the Department of Human Services.
- 143 (24) "Outpatient treatment" means individual, family, or group therapy or counseling
- 144 designed to improve and enhance social or psychological functioning for those whose physical
- 145 and emotional status allows them to continue functioning in their usual living environment.
- 146 (25) (a) "Recovery residence" means a home, residence, or facility that meets at least
- 147 two of the following requirements:
  - 148 (i) provides a supervised living environment for individuals recovering from a
  - 149 substance abuse disorder;
  - 150 (ii) provides a living environment in which more than half of the individuals in the
  - 151 residence are recovering from a substance abuse disorder;

152 (iii) provides or arranges for residents to receive services related to their recovery from  
153 a substance abuse disorder, either on or off site;

154 (iv) is held out as a living environment in which individuals recovering from substance  
155 abuse disorders live together to encourage continued sobriety; or

156 (v) (A) receives public funding; or

157 (B) is run as a business venture, either for-profit or not-for-profit.

158 (b) "Recovery residence" does not mean:

159 (i) a residential treatment program;

160 (ii) residential support; or

161 (iii) a home, residence, or facility, in which:

162 (A) residents, by their majority vote, establish, implement, and enforce policies

163 governing the living environment, including the manner in which applications for residence are  
164 approved and the manner in which residents are expelled;

165 (B) residents equitably share rent and housing-related expenses; and

166 (C) a landlord, owner, or operator does not receive compensation, other than fair  
167 market rental income, for establishing, implementing, or enforcing policies governing the  
168 living environment.

169 (26) "Regular business hours" means:

170 (a) the hours during which services of any kind are provided to a client; or

171 (b) the hours during which a client is present at the facility of a licensee.

172 (27) (a) "Residential support" means arranging for or providing the necessities of life  
173 as a protective service to individuals or families who have a disability or who are experiencing  
174 a dislocation or emergency that prevents them from providing these services for themselves or  
175 their families.

176 (b) "Residential support" includes providing a supervised living environment for  
177 persons with dysfunctions or impairments that are:

178 (i) emotional;

179 (ii) psychological;

180 (iii) developmental; or

181 (iv) behavioral.

182 (c) Treatment is not a necessary component of residential support.

183 (d) "Residential support" does not include:

184 (i) a recovery residence; or

185 (ii) residential services that are performed:

186 (A) exclusively under contract with the Division of Services for People with

187 Disabilities; or

188 (B) in a facility that serves fewer than four individuals.

189 (28) (a) "Residential treatment" means a 24-hour group living environment for four or

190 more individuals unrelated to the owner or provider that offers room or board and specialized

191 treatment, behavior modification, rehabilitation, discipline, emotional growth, or habilitation

192 services for persons with emotional, psychological, developmental, or behavioral dysfunctions,

193 impairments, or chemical dependencies.

194 (b) "Residential treatment" does not include a:

195 (i) boarding school;

196 (ii) foster home; or

197 (iii) recovery residence.

198 (29) "Residential treatment program" means a human services program that provides:

199 (a) residential treatment; or

200 (b) secure treatment.

201 (30) (a) "Secure treatment" means 24-hour specialized residential treatment or care for

202 persons whose current functioning is such that they cannot live independently or in a less

203 restrictive environment.

204 (b) "Secure treatment" differs from residential treatment to the extent that it requires

205 intensive supervision, locked doors, and other security measures that are imposed on residents

206 with neither their consent nor control.

207 (31) "Social detoxification" means short-term residential services for persons who are

208 experiencing or have recently experienced drug or alcohol intoxication, that are provided

209 outside of a health care facility licensed under Title 26, Chapter 21, Health Care Facility

210 Licensing and Inspection Act, and that include:

211 (a) room and board for persons who are unrelated to the owner or manager of the  
212 facility;

213 (b) specialized rehabilitation to acquire sobriety; and

- 214 (c) aftercare services.
- 215 (32) "Substance abuse treatment program" means a program:
- 216 (a) designed to provide:
- 217 (i) specialized drug or alcohol treatment;
- 218 (ii) rehabilitation; or
- 219 (iii) habilitation services; and
- 220 (b) that provides the treatment or services described in Subsection (32)(a) to persons
- 221 with:
- 222 (i) a diagnosed substance abuse disorder; or
- 223 (ii) chemical dependency disorder.
- 224 (33) "Therapeutic school" means a residential group living facility:
- 225 (a) for four or more individuals that are not related to:
- 226 (i) the owner of the facility; or
- 227 (ii) the primary service provider of the facility;
- 228 (b) that serves students who have a history of failing to function:
- 229 (i) at home;
- 230 (ii) in a public school; or
- 231 (iii) in a nonresidential private school; and
- 232 (c) that offers:
- 233 (i) room and board; and
- 234 (ii) an academic education integrated with:
- 235 (A) specialized structure and supervision; or
- 236 (B) services or treatment related to:
- 237 (I) a disability;
- 238 (II) emotional development;
- 239 (III) behavioral development;
- 240 (IV) familial development; or
- 241 (V) social development.
- 242 (34) "Unrelated persons" means persons other than parents, legal guardians,
- 243 grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles, or aunts.
- 244 (35) "Vulnerable adult" means an elder adult or an adult who has a temporary or



245 permanent mental or physical impairment that substantially affects the person's ability to:

- 246 (a) provide personal protection;
- 247 (b) provide necessities such as food, shelter, clothing, or mental or other health care;
- 248 (c) obtain services necessary for health, safety, or welfare;
- 249 (d) carry out the activities of daily living;
- 250 (e) manage the adult's own resources; or
- 251 (f) comprehend the nature and consequences of remaining in a situation of abuse,
- 252 neglect, or exploitation.

253 (36) (a) "Youth program" means a nonresidential program designed to provide  
254 behavioral, substance abuse, or mental health services to minors that:

- 255 (i) serves adjudicated or nonadjudicated youth;
- 256 (ii) charges a fee for its services;
- 257 (iii) may or may not provide host homes or other arrangements for overnight  
258 accommodation of the youth;
- 259 (iv) may or may not provide all or part of its services in the outdoors;
- 260 (v) may or may not limit or censor access to parents or guardians; and
- 261 (vi) prohibits or restricts a minor's ability to leave the program at any time of the  
262 minor's own free will.

263 (b) "Youth program" does not include recreational programs such as Boy Scouts, Girl  
264 Scouts, 4-H, and other such organizations.

265 Section 2. Section **62A-2-116.5** is enacted to read:

266 **62A-2-116.5. Numerical limit of foster children in a foster home.**

267 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2) or (3), no more than:

- 268 (a) four foster children may reside in the foster home of a licensed foster parent; or
- 269 (b) three foster children may reside in the foster home of a certified foster parent.

270 (2) When placing a sibling group into a foster home, the limits in Subsection (1) may  
271 be exceeded if:

- 272 (a) no other foster children reside in the foster home;
- 273 (b) only one other foster child resides in the foster home at the time of a sibling group's  
274 placement into the foster home; or
- 275 (c) a sibling group re-enters foster care and is placed into the foster home where the

276 sibling group previously resided.

277 (3) When placing a child into a foster home, the limits in Subsection (1) may be  
278 exceeded:

279 (a) to place a child into a foster home where a sibling of the child currently resides; or

280 (b) to place a child in a foster home where the child previously resided.

---

---

**Legislative Review Note**  
**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**