

# Aspiranet

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~October 2023~

## Monthly Regulation Topic

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### Care & Supervision Options

Community Care Licensing (CCL) provides requirements and options for care and supervision of foster children when Resource Parents are not available. The requirements seek to minimize obstacles for Resource Parents seeking care for their foster children while also ensuring safety. As always, Resource Parents are expected to carefully identify and select caregivers that are able to provide the level of care and supervision appropriate to meet each child's needs. *Resource Parents are also requested to notify Aspiranet of identified caregivers prior to using them.*

**Options for Care & Supervision include the following:**

#### 1. Respite Provider:

- CCL defines a "Respite Provider" as an approved Resource Family, which includes approved relative caregivers, county foster homes and Foster Family Agency (FFA) homes. So in other words, a respite provider is another foster parent.
- Whenever possible, it is strongly recommended that Aspiranet families use other Aspiranet families for respite care.
- If considering a non-Aspiranet Resource Family, Aspiranet must be notified in advance as both Aspiranet and the child's County Social Worker must approve of the identified "Respite Provider" prior to caring for a foster child.

#### 2. Occasional Short Term Babysitter:

- By definition, a babysitter is used for occasional, short-term care and supervision of less than 24 hours.
- Babysitters are not required to be fingerprinted to supervise children in foster care.
- A Babysitter may provide care to a foster child in either the Resource Family's home or the home of the Babysitter. If a Babysitter will provide care and supervision in their own home, the Prudent Parent Standard must be used to determine the home is safe and appropriate for the child and the child's personal rights will be respected.
- A Resource Family must apply the Prudent Parent Standard in selecting a Babysitter. It is expected that resource families selecting a Babysitter will have a relationship with the individual that allows for sound decision making as to whether the Babysitter is able to properly provide care and supervision to meet the child's needs.
- A Babysitter may be under 18 years of age, but must have the maturity, experience, and ability necessary to provide adequate care and supervision based on the child's needs. A foster youth or non-minor dependent may babysit but cannot be required to babysit.
- The Resource Family must ensure the babysitter knows how to contact them in case of emergency.

#### 3. Alternative Caregiver (Occasional):

- An Alternative Caregiver by definition is used for *occasional* care and supervision that is anticipated to be more than 24 hours. Care can be provided for up to 72 hours or longer with County Social Worker approval.
- Alternative Caregivers are not required to be fingerprinted and receive a background check clearance to supervise children in foster care. Alternative Caregivers are required to complete an *Alternative Caregiver Information & Agreement* form provided by Aspiranet prior to providing care and supervision.

- An Alternative Caregiver may provide alternative care for a foster child in either the Resource Family's home or the home of the alternative caregiver. If an alternative caregiver will provide care and supervision in their own home, the Prudent Parent Standard must be used to determine the Alternative Caregiver's home is safe and appropriate for the child and the child's personal rights will be respected.
- A Resource Family must apply the Prudent Parent Standard in selecting an Alternative Caregiver. It is expected that resource families selecting an Alternative Caregiver will have a relationship with the caregiver that allows for sound decision making as to whether the identified caregiver is able to properly provide care and supervision to meet the child's needs.
- Aspiranet must be consulted about the Alternative Caregiver, and the child's County Social Worker must be informed prior to the caregiver caring for foster child. This consultation is important as Aspiranet, County Social Worker or court order may prohibit an Alternative Caregiver from caring for a child.
- A Resource Family must provide the following information to the Alternative Caregiver before care is provided: information about the child's emotional, behavioral, medical or physical conditions, any medication for which they will administer, and the contact information for the child's social worker, Aspiranet and the resource family.

#### 4. License Exempt Child Care:

- By definition, "license exempt" child care means a resource family may arrange for child care with an individual who is not required to have a CCL day care license or complete a background check clearance. The following options fall under license exempt child care:
  - An individual providing care for only the specific resource family's children, in addition to the individual's own children.
  - Any cooperative arrangement between parents for the care of their children when no payment is involved (childcare exchange between families or co-op preschool/child care).
  - A relative of the resource parent providing care for the foster children, if contact with that relative is approved by Aspiranet and child's County Social Worker.
- It is expected that resource families selecting a friend or relative under License Exempt Child Care will have a relationship with the caregiver that allows for sound decision making as to whether the identified caregiver is able to properly provide care and supervision to meet the child's needs.
- License Exempt Child Care providers will be required to complete a *License Exempt Child Care Provider Information & Agreement* form provided by Aspiranet.
- License Exempt child care also includes:
  - Extended day care programs operated by schools
  - A public recreation program (i.e. City Parks and Recreation Dept., Boys & Girls Club, etc.)
  - A program that provides instructional activities for children in a classroom-like setting
  - Any day care program that offers temporary child care services to parents (i.e. health club/gym)

#### 5. Licensed Child Care

- As always, for routine, ongoing child care, Resource Families may use licensed home day care or licensed child care facilities.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Occasional Short Term Babysitter, Alternative Caregiver and License Exempt Child Care do not require fingerprinting and background check clearance, however if the friend or relative resides in or frequently visits the Resource Family Home, then RFA fingerprints & background check clearance is required.

Please sign and return this page to your Aspiranet Social Worker for training credit. My signature below indicates that I have completed the October 2023 "Care & Supervision Options" training.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature Foster Parent #1*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Print Name Foster Parent #1*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature Foster Parent #2*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Print Name Foster Parent #2*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Aspiranet Authorized Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Training credit: \_\_\_\_ minutes