
Aspiranet

~ February 2021 ~

Monthly Regulation Topic

Regulatory Reminders & Updates

Communicating with Aspiranet

As your foster care agency, it is Aspiranet's role to provide direct support and services to you and the children in your care. Your Aspiranet Social Worker can best support you and your foster children when there is frequent, open communication. It is your Aspiranet Social Worker's role to serve as your children's primary case manager and therefore, "communication coordinator" with the County Social Worker and other service providers.

Aspiranet is also responsible to report certain incidents to Community Care Licensing within the next business day and therefore it is vital for resource parents to report specific events to Aspiranet in a timely manner.

As a reminder, outlined below are some events that are vital to report to your Aspiranet Social Worker or the On-Call Aspiranet Social Worker the same day and preferably immediately whenever possible:

COVID-19 exposure/symptoms/testing: Please contact Aspiranet right away in the event any member of your household has been COVID exposed, is having COVID-related symptoms, or is seeking COVID testing or is confirmed to have COVID-19. Aspiranet is best able to support your family the sooner we know and can develop a support plan, if needed. In addition, Aspiranet is also required to report any COVID-19 positive resource family members or Aspiranet staff to Community Care Licensing

Absence or Late Return of a Child: If a child leaves your home without permission or does not return home as scheduled, please contact Aspiranet immediately. This includes late return from family visits, an outing, etc.

Injury: Contact Aspiranet as soon as possible if your foster child is injured and any of the following occur: 1) you provide First Aid for the injury 2) the child is seen by a health care provider for the injury (i.e. doctor office, Urgent Care, or Emergency Room) 3) the injury leaves a mark on the child.

County Social Worker or Community Care Licensing Visit your Home unexpectedly: Please notify Aspiranet right away any time you have an unexpected visit from a County Social Worker or a representative of Community Care Licensing (CCL) to your home, particularly if the visit is due to an investigation. Aspiranet can better support you and your family during the investigation process if you let us know right away. If permitted by CCL, your Aspiranet Social Worker can be present during the investigation to provide support.

County contacts you directly about placement of a child: Due to many considerations when placing a child, only Aspiranet can approve the placement of a child with your family. Please contact Aspiranet immediately if you are contacted directly by a county social worker regarding placement of a child. Please let the county social worker know they must contact Aspiranet regarding potential placements and before a child can be placed (left) at your home.

Child's behavior is escalated and not responding to your intervention: If your foster child's behavior begins to escalate and s/he is not responding to your attempts to calm him/her down, please contact your Aspiranet Social Worker or the On-Call Aspiranet Social Worker for assistance right away. It can be helpful to have a "neutral" party for you and/or the child to talk with to help reduce the escalation. In addition, if needed, an On-call Aspiranet Social Worker can visit your home to assist in person.

If a child's behavior is escalated to the point of being a true danger to him/herself or to others, contact the police for emergency response.

You must evacuate your home: If for any reason your home must be evacuated and you are required to relocate (even if only for a few hours), please notify Aspiranet immediately. Aspiranet must immediately notify the county social worker(s) of the child(ren) in your care where you have relocated. In addition, Aspiranet must report any change location/address of resource families to Community Care Licensing.

Other Required Notifications

In order to maintain agency and licensing standards, and the health, safety and well being of your foster children and family, Aspiranet requests that as soon as possible, resource parents notify their Aspiranet Social Worker of the following before they occur:

Changes in your family composition: This includes anyone moving in or out of your home. Changes in the residents of your home may impact room sharing, available bed space, in addition, anyone 18 & over must obtain fingerprint clearance prior to residing in your home (with the exception of youth in the extended foster care program).

Frequent Visitors & Extended Houseguests: Community Care Licensing requires that anyone 18 & over that is a frequent visitor to your home obtain fingerprint clearance. This can include extended family member, adult children or friends that frequently visit your home. Aspiranet policy requires that any houseguest that visits the foster home for more than 14 continuous nights or 21 nights in a calendar year, must complete an "18 & Over Resident in the Home" packet and obtain clearances.

Adding a pet to your family: An assessment for safety and health considerations must be completed prior to your family obtaining a new pet. The assessment will include pet type, health and vaccination status of pet, experience with children, possible allergies of children in your care, etc.

Obtaining a firearm: Safety considerations and compliance with agency and licensing standards require that you immediately notify your Aspiranet Social Worker regarding obtaining a firearm.

Considering a day care license: There are many factors to consider and discuss prior to obtaining a day care license, such as needs of children currently in your care, number of children being considered for day care, additional adult help, etc.

Remodeling Your Home: Safety considerations and compliance with agency and licensing standards must be considered prior to a certified home starting a remodeling project.

Other Important Notifications

- Change in employment or work schedule(s)
- Any police/criminal involvement with a resource parent or household member
- Plans to move
- Obtaining new vehicle - vehicle and insurance info must be updated with Aspiranet

For detailed emergency reporting procedures, please see *Emergency Procedures* section of the Foster Parent Manual.

Community Care Licensing (CCL) Updates

Personal Rights Update:

CCL has recently released updates to Children's Personal Rights as follows in ***bold italics***:

- To be informed of and exercise their personal rights without harassment ***or retaliation***
- To have access to letter writing material ***and postage***
- To be free from unreasonable searches of person ***and personal property***:
Please note: in the event a safety concern may warrant a search of a foster child's belongings, please always consult your Aspiranet Social Worker prior to any search in order that appropriate steps are taken to avoid violating a child's personal rights.
- Toiletries and personal hygiene products for a child's skin and hair shall be appropriate for the child's cultural, religious, ethnic or racial background, ***and gender identity and expression***
A child or youth has the right to the purchase and use of toiletries and personal hygiene products, including make up, in alignment with his/her gender identity and expression.

Emergency Procedures

New state requirement under Emergency Procedures states that in the event of a state or local emergency, or a natural disaster, a Resource Family must follow guidance or instructions of any responsible state or local official or agency as necessary. This includes public health guidance currently relevant to the state of emergency declared by Governor Newsom regarding COVID-19.

Resource Parent Training

New Training requirement for Resource Parents:

Regulations now require that all Resource Parents receive training related to providing care and supervision for children who have been commercially sexually exploited. Aspiranet will be providing information and resources for completion of this training in the near future.

Annual Training Reminder:

Regulations require each Resource Parent to complete a minimum of 8 hours of training annually. If approved for Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) each Resource Parent is required to complete 12 training hours annually. In addition, during the first year of being ISFC approved, at least *one* Resource Parent must complete an additional 12 hours of training for a total of 24 hours the first year only.

If you need assistance with locating training to meet the annual training requirement, please speak with your Aspiranet Social Worker. There are many online training opportunities and webinars available that are particularly helpful at this time. All foster parents are able to take courses offered through Foster Parent College (www.fosterparentcollege.com) for FREE! There is a wide variety of courses on many different topics related to foster parenting and children's needs. If you need assistance with log in information, please contact your Aspiranet Social Worker.

Resource Parents must provide documentation to Aspiranet to confirm completion of training. Be sure to obtain or print training completion certificates and provide to your Aspiranet Social Worker or send directly to the Aspiranet office through email, fax, or US Mail. This includes the signature page of the Aspiranet Monthly Trainings.

Clothing Allowance Reminder

To help understand each child's clothing needs, upon placement, each child is to have a Clothing Inventory completed. As we know, some children come into care with little to no clothing at placement. The Clothing Inventory is to be used as a guide for determining immediate clothing needs and for documenting a plan for purchasing additional clothing each month until identified clothing needs are met.

Resource Parents are expected to initially purchase clothing to meet immediate needs. However a full complement of clothing is not expected to be purchased immediately but over a few months. The *minimum* amount to be spent each month is \$50 for all children and youth. If a child is placed with very little clothing, Resource Parents may need to spend more than \$50 for the first 1-3 months. If a child has substantial clothing needs, particularly older children and teens, review this with your Aspiranet Social Worker, as the county social worker for the child or youth may authorize a county clothing allowance check to assist with meeting clothing needs.

Please sign and return this page to your Aspiranet Social Worker for training credit.

My signature below indicates that I have completed the February 2021 "Regulatory Reminders & Updates" 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