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**MINIMUM STANDARDS  
FOR  
FAMILY FOSTER HOMES**

**ISSUED BY  
THE  
BOARD OF STANDARDS  
OF CHILD CARE**

STATE OF COLORADO



1951

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**MINIMUM STANDARDS**  
**AND**  
**RULES AND REGULATIONS**  
**GOVERNING**  
**FAMILY FOSTER HOMES**



*Issued by*  
**THE**  
**BOARD OF STANDARDS OF CHILD CARE**  
State of Colorado  
237 State Capitol Building, Denver 2, Colo.

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## MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FAMILY FOSTER HOMES

A Family Foster Home is a residence, dwelling, or home receiving one to four children under sixteen years of age for foster care. The Family Foster Home includes Boarding Homes, Free Homes, Work Homes, Receiving Homes, and Day Care Homes.

MINIMUM STANDARDS for every family foster home shall include the following:

### STANDARD NO. I. THE HOME— LOCATION, HOUSING AND EQUIPMENT.

- (1) A location in a neighborhood conducive to the general well-being of the child, in a district where the child can attend school regularly.
- (2) A home so situated and so arranged that the children are not exposed to unnecessary hazards. Fire protection and prevention must be emphasized. Fire hazards must be eliminated, according to local and state fire regulations.
- (3) Indoor and outdoor space and facilities for play adapted to the ages and needs of the children.
- (4) Tested and approved water supply. In rural areas a sample of the water supply must be tested annually. No common drinking cup will be permitted. Adequate and sanitary bathing and toilet facilities.

Note: Sterilized containers for free laboratory tests of the water supply shall be secured by writing to the State Board of Health, State Office Building, Denver 2, Colorado.

- (5) Suitable housing which provides light, heat, plumbing, ventilation and adequate rooms conforming in construction, safety, and sanitary precautions to the legal regulations of Colorado and of the community where it is located. Sewage disposal systems must meet the approval of the local or State Health Department. Garbage, kept in covered metal containers, must be removed from the house daily, and disposed of at frequent intervals.
- (6) For each child, a clean, comfortable bed in a light and well-ventilated room. No child over four years of age shall sleep in the same room with any person of the opposite sex. There shall be a minimum of 40 sq. ft. of floor space for each child's bed, and beds should be placed at least 2 ft. apart when arranged parallel.
- (7) Homelike surroundings, cleanliness and good management.



- (8) Proper care and preparation of foods. Special diets and formulas must be provided when necessary.
- (9) Dishes shall be washed in hot, soapy water, and rinsed in hot water.

Note: Rinse water should be at a minimum of 170°.

## STANDARD NO. II. THE FOSTER FAMILY—

### ATTITUDES, HEALTH, INCOME AND RECORDS.

- (1) Foster parents and other persons in the foster home shall be of good moral character. They shall be emotionally stable and have a genuine interest in children. They shall not use profane or obscene language or be addicted to the use of intoxicants or narcotics.

Satisfactory references shall be presented from at least three persons concerning the health, character, and financial stability of the prospective foster parent or parents.

Note: Whenever possible the foster parents and children should be of the same religious faith. Foster parents should have the responsibility for providing religious training in the faith of the natural parents of the child. Foster parents should also have a realization of the values of the cultural and educational training for children, and should be of an age and flexibility to share in the child's development.

- (2) All members of the family and others living in the foster home shall be of sound mental health, free from communicable disease or any handicap that would affect the child.

Note: A report of a medical examination of all members of the foster family and others living in the foster home, signed by a duly registered physician, should be required upon application for a license, and annually thereafter. Chest x-rays are recommended annually and on the physician's advice.

All children in the home should be immunized against whooping cough, diphtheria, and smallpox.

- (3) The foster mother shall have sufficient experience to qualify her for the responsibility of giving home nursing care.
- (4) Discipline shall meet the needs of each individual child. Authority to punish shall not be delegated to older children. Harsh punishment will not be permitted.
- (5) The foster mother shall not be regularly employed outside the home.

Note: It is desirable that there should be some source of income in the foster family other than that derived from the care of foster children.



- (6) A competent adult shall be left in charge of the children during the absence of the foster parents.
- (7) The foster parents shall not conduct a rooming house or boarding house for adults that would be a detriment to the best interest of the child.
- (8) If a child is missing from a foster home his absence shall be reported immediately to local authorities and to his parent, guardian, or supervising agency.
- (9) If parents have not been in contact with the foster child for some time without satisfactory explanation, this fact must be reported to the juvenile authority.
- (10) The foster family must notify the supervising agency and the parents or guardian of the child whenever there has been:
  - a. Any change of address of foster parents.
  - b. Accident or illness incurred by child.
  - c. Injury or illness in the foster home.
- (11) When a home is certified by a child placement agency, the foster family shall not accept children from any other source without permission of the certifying agency.
- (12) A permanent record shall be kept showing:
  - a. Child's name and age.
  - b. Name and address of parent, guardian, or supervising agency.
  - c. Date admitted.
  - d. By whom placed.
  - e. Any sickness or unusual symptoms.
  - f. Date dismissed.
  - g. Custody assumed by whom.
  - h. Authorization of parents, guardian, or supervising agency for the care desired in case of illness or accident. The foster parents must know where and how to reach the physician indicated by the parents.
  - i. Record of past illnesses.
  - j. Record of known allergies.
  - k. Names and addresses of two verified references for those parents who leave a child in the foster home.

STANDARD NO. III. THE FOSTER CHILD—  
HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND PROPER CARE.

- (1) A medical certificate signed by a duly licensed physician shall be required before a child is admitted for care. Arrangements must be made for medical emergencies.

Note: It is recommended that the foster parents see that periodic medical and dental examinations are given with the necessary follow-up care.

All foster children should be immunized against whooping cough, diphtheria, and smallpox.

A careful inspection for signs of illness shall be made daily.

- (2) In all cases of illness or suspected communicable disease the physician must be called immediately.

- (3) Provision shall be made for temporary isolation of children who are suspected of having a communicable disease.

Note: The foster mother's hands should be washed before and after caring for the sick child, and other protective measures must be taken.

- (4) A well-regulated daily routine shall be provided including rest periods, regular meal hours, and happy play. Each child shall be taken outdoors daily during good weather.

Note: All children over two years of age should have at least three meals a day, spaced not more than five hours apart and providing a minimum of two servings of meat or meat substitutes, two servings of fruit, two servings of vegetables, and one serving of cereal.

It is recommended that there should be at least one serving of fresh fruit and fresh vegetables daily and at least one pint of whole milk be served to each child daily. All milk and milk products must be pasteurized or carry approval of the local and State Health Department.

- (5) Opportunity shall be given for normal social contacts outside the foster family.

- (6) Training shall be given in good health habits, including frequent bathing, toilet regularity, and proper eating.

Note: Bathtubs should be cleaned with soap and water after each bath and all soiled clothes and linens placed in proper receptacles.

- (7) Adequate garments shall be provided for each child. These shall be kept clean and in good condition. Individual towels, wash cloths, combs, and tooth brushes must be furnished each child. Space shall be provided where each child may keep his personal belongings.

Note: Towels, wash cloths, and bed linen should be changed frequently.

- (8) Suitable places for study and necessary school equipment shall be provided for the school child.



- (9) Regular school attendance shall be required for each child of school age according to the school attendance laws.

Note: Where advised, vocational training should be provided.

- (10) No exploitation of any foster child will be permitted.
- (11) No more than two infants under two years of age, unless they be of the same family, shall be cared for in one foster home.

#### STANDARD NO. IV. RECEIVING HOME— (FOR TEMPORARY, EMERGENCY CARE.)

Receiving homes which care for a daily average of not more than eight children per month, shall be licensed as family foster homes and must comply with the above standards.

#### STANDARD NO. V. INFANT CARE IN FAMILY FOSTER HOMES (INFANTS TO 2 YEARS).

All Family Foster Homes which care for infants under the age of two years must comply with the following additional standards in relation to the care of the infant:

##### A. ADMISSIONS.

- (1) A health certificate signed by a registered physician must be presented on admission, certifying that the baby showed no signs of communicable disease. The examination should have been made within 24 hours before admission.

Note: Babies should be immunized for whooping cough and diphtheria during the first six months of life, preferably starting at the age of three months. Smallpox vaccination should be done during the second six-month period.

##### B. SLEEPING ACCOMMODATIONS.

- (1) For each child a clean, comfortable bed in a light and well-ventilated room. There shall be a minimum of forty square feet of floor space for each infant's bed, and beds should be placed at least two feet apart when arranged parallel.

Babies should be protected from direct light and draft although the room must be well ventilated.

The bed should have a firm mattress, good springs, and have safe side-walls.

Note: The child should not sleep in a room that is utilized at night for other purposes, such as a passageway or livingroom.

The room should be cleaned daily in such a manner as not to raise dust.



### C. PLAY SUPERVISION AND EQUIPMENT.

- (1) In addition to and separate from the sleeping room there should be a well ventilated play space.

Note: It should contain play pens for babies nine months of age or more. The play pens should be movable and raised six inches from the floor in order to avoid floor drafts.

- (2) During good weather there should be provided daily, supervised outdoor play activities.

### D. NUTRITION.

- (1) Adequate and proper food shall be provided.

Note: Each child who cannot feed himself should be held during the feeding of solid foods and bottle, preferably every time he is fed, but at least once a day. The bottle should always be given after other food. Beginning with the sixth or seventh month the child should be given milk from a cup once a day in place of the bottle.

- (2) Each child should have his individual feeding schedule regulated and prescribed by a licensed physician, entered in his record.

Note: A notation should be made on the record if the child is not taking his food well. If refusal of food persists it should be called to the attention of the physician.

- (3) The refrigeration space and the supply of bottles must be adequate. All nipples, bottles and caps shall be washed thoroughly after each use and boiled ten minutes before using again.

Note: Formula should be poured into individual bottles with sterile nipple protectors. After preparation of the formula and filling of the bottles, the cooling should be rapid and complete before placing the bottle in the refrigerator. The refrigerator containing the formula mixtures should be maintained at a temperature of 40 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit at all times.

### E. BATHING.

- (1) Each infant shall be bathed daily unless otherwise ordered by the physician.

- (2) Each infant shall be kept as a complete separate unit, being provided with his own wash cloth, soap and oil.

Note: If a common tub should be used it must be thoroughly cleaned with soap and water between each bath. Each infant should be bathed on his own table by his crib, or in his own crib; or if it is necessary to use a common bathing table, the infant should be lifted with his own crib sheet and placed on the dry table. He must have a clean wash cloth and towel for his bath.

If an infant has signs of a cold, skin condition, or other infection noted during bath, his designated physician should be consulted immediately.

Soiled clothes, bed and bath linen should be placed immediately in a proper receptacle. The foster mother should wash her hands thoroughly after each bath.

Once a week, on the same day, same time, each infant should be weighed naked after bathing and before feeding and the weight recorded. Loss or gain in weight should be reported to the physician.

## F. DIAPERING PROCEDURES.

- (1) Each infant shall be changed as frequently as needed.

Note: When changing diapers, the infant should be washed and dried, using his individual toilet accessories. If there is diarrhea, baby shall be put in isolation, utilizing isolation technique.

Soiled diapers should be removed from the nursery.

## G. ELIMINATION.

- (1) The physician should be consulted regarding a training program for bowel and bladder control. No laxative or cathartic should be given without the physician's advice.



## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### RULE NO. I.

No person, firm, or corporation shall engage in the maintenance of a family foster home for the care of children under the age of sixteen years without first obtaining a license therefor from the Colorado Board of Standards of Child Care or a certificate therefor from a duly licensed child placement agency and thereafter having said license or certificate in full force and effect.

### RULE NO. II.

No person, firm, corporation, or association shall engage in maintaining and operating a nursery school, day nursery, or child care center for the care of children under the age of sixteen years without first obtaining a license therefor from the Colorado Board of Standards of Child Care or a certificate therefor from a duly licensed child placement agency, and thereafter having said license or certificate in full force and effect.

### RULE NO. III.

No person, firm, corporation, or association shall engage in maintaining and operating an institutional foster home for the care of children under the age of sixteen years without first obtaining a license therefor from the Colorado Board of Standards of Child Care or a certificate therefor from a duly licensed child placement agency, and thereafter having said license or certificate in full force and effect.

### RULE NO. IV.

No person, agency, firm, corporation, or association shall engage in the business of a child placement agency or shall place any child or children under the age of sixteen years with any family, individual, or institution, other than persons related within the second degree to said child, without first obtaining a license from the Colorado Board of Standards of Child Care therefor, and thereafter having said license in full force and effect. Any out-of-state agency must comply with these standards, rules, and regulations and must appoint an agent for the service of process and notices of any kind, or make placements through agencies that are duly licensed to operate in the State of Colorado.

### RULE NO. V.

Said license shall be posted conspicuously at all times in the office or reception room of said nursery school, day nursery, child care center, institution, or child placement agency.

#### RULE NO. VI.

Licenses, certificates, and applications for licenses and renewal thereof shall be in the form prescribed by the Colorado Board of Standards of Child Care. Licenses shall be signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Colorado Board of Standards of Child Care and certificates shall be signed by the proper officer of the child placement agency issuing such certificates.

#### RULE NO. VII.

All licenses shall be issued for the period of one year but may be suspended or revoked under the provisions of Rule No. 10 for failure to comply with the requirements of law or of the standards or rules and regulations prescribed by the Colorado Board of Standards of Child Care.

#### RULE NO. VIII.

In the event a certificate, or the renewal thereof, is refused by a child placement agency, the applicant may make application to the Colorado Board of Standards of Child Care for a license.

#### RULE NO. IX.

Licenses and certificates shall be refused to applicants not complying with the requirements of law or of the standards or rules and regulations prescribed by the Colorado Board of Standards of Child Care.

#### RULE NO. X.

In the event the Colorado Board of Standards of Child Care, in its discretion, declines to grant or renew a license, written notice of such declination shall be given to the applicant of such declination and of the time and place at which hearing will be held by the Colorado Board of Standards of Child Care in relation to the issuing or refusing such license or renewal. Upon complaint made by the Colorado Board of Standards of Child Care on its own motion of the alleged failure of a licensee or certificate holder to comply with the law or with the standards or rules and regulations prescribed by the Colorado Board of Standards of Child Care, or if protest or complaint be made against the issuing or retaining of any such license or certificate, the applicant, licensee, or certificate holder shall be furnished with a copy of such complaint or protest and written notice shall be given to such applicant, licensee, or certificate holder of the time and place of hearing in connection therewith. Copies of such notice, complaint, or protest, shall be served on such applicant, licensee, or certificate holder by the Secretary of the Colorado Board of Standards of Child Care, by ordinary mail addressed to the applicant, licensee, or certificate holder at least ten (10) days in advance of the date of hearing, at which time and place the applicant, licensee or certificate holder will be given full



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