

Resource Family Approval Written Directives



VERSION 7

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/13/2021

Prepared by:

California Department of Social Services



RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL PROGRAM

Single-underlined text with yellow highlights – Reflect changes made to the Written Directives in Version 7.

- (1) Criminal record exemption decisions made pursuant to section 6-03B shall be made following the receipt of LiveScan fingerprint responses from the Department of Justice and the RFA 01B. Criminal record exemption decisions shall not be based on CLETS information received for purposes of making emergency placement decisions pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 361.4 or 727.05.
- (c) Within 10 calendar days following the criminal records check conducted through the CLETS, or five business days after a child or nonminor dependent is placed with a relative or NREFM pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 309, 361.45 or 727.05 whichever is sooner, a County shall:
 - (1) Ensure the relative or NREFM completes form RFA-01(A): Resource Family Application and RFA-01(B): Resource Family Criminal Records Statement.
 - (2) Initiate a Home Environment Assessment, including a background check, as specified in Sections 6-02 and 6-03A.
 - (A) A County shall document the date on which the health and safety assessment of the home and grounds, outdoor activity space, and storage areas of the home is conducted by using form RFA-03: Resource Family Home Health and Safety Assessment Checklist.
 - (3) Discuss funding available to a relative or NREFM prior to approval as a Resource Family.
- (d) A County shall complete a Comprehensive Assessment of an applicant, as specified in Section 6-01, and prepare a Written Report, as specified in Section 6-07, within 90 calendar days of the date a child or nonminor dependent was placed with the relative or NREFM.
 - (1) If a County is unable to complete the Comprehensive Assessment within 90 days, the County shall document the reasons for the delay, if the delay was due to a good-cause reason, and generate a timeframe for completion.
 - (A) A good cause reason for delay is created when the circumstances for the delay are outside the direct control of the county.
- (e) A relative or NREFM is not eligible to receive an Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care payment on behalf of a child or nonminor dependent until the applicant receives Resource Family Approval and the child or nonminor dependent meets all other eligibility criteria.
 - (1) A relative or NREFM shall receive emergency caregiver funding effective the date of placement pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 11461.36.
- (f) The emergency placement of a child or nonminor dependent with a relative or NREFM pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 309, 361.45, or 727.05 does not ensure approval as a Resource Family.

SECTION 4-09: Placement Prior to Approval – Compelling Reason

- (a) A County welfare agency or probation department may place a child or nonminor dependent with an applicant of a County RFA program or Foster Family Agency prior to Resource Family Approval based on a compelling reason, pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 16519.5(e).

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- (1) A compelling reason may include, but is not limited to the following:
 - (A) The unique needs of a child or nonminor dependent.
 - (B) The best interest of a child or nonminor dependent to maintain their family or family-like connections with an applicant.
 - (C) In the case of an Indian child, complying with placement preference requirements set forth in Welfare and Institutions Code section 361.31 and the federal Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1901 et seq.).
- (b) Prior to placing a child or nonminor dependent with an applicant for a compelling reason, a County shall:
 - (1) Verify that a health and safety assessment of the home and grounds, outdoor activity space, and storage areas of the home has been completed and documented on form RFA-03: Resource Family Home Health and Safety Assessment Checklist, and that a capacity determination has been completed, as specified in Section 10-04.
 - (2) Verify that a background check of the applicant and all adults residing or regularly present in the home has been completed as specified in Section 6-03A, and if necessary, any criminal record exemptions have been approved pursuant to Section 6-03B.
- (c) A County shall conduct a Permanency Assessment of an applicant, as specified in Section 6-04, and prepare a Written Report, as specified in Section 6-07, within 90 calendar days of the date a child or nonminor dependent was placed pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 16519.5(e) unless good cause exists.
 - (1) If good cause exists, a County shall document the reasons for the delay and generate a timeframe for completion.
- (d) An applicant is not eligible to receive an Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care payment on behalf of a child or nonminor dependent until the applicant receives Resource Family Approval and the child or nonminor dependent meets all other eligibility criteria.
 - (1) An applicant with a child placed in their home based on a compelling reason shall receive emergency caregiver funding effective the date of placement pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 11461.36.
- (e) The placement of a child or nonminor dependent with an applicant pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 16519.5(e) does not ensure approval as a Resource Family.

ARTICLE 5: RESOURCE FAMILY APPLICATION PROCESS

SECTION 5-01: Nondiscrimination of Applicants

- (a) Any adult shall be permitted to apply for Resource Family Approval regardless of age, sex, race, religion, color, political affiliation, national origin, disability, marital status, gender identity, gender expression, actual or perceived sexual orientation, medical condition, genetic information, citizenship, primary language, immigration status, or ancestry.