



Licensing of Family Foster Homes
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States have a variety of policies regarding the licensing or approval of family foster homes. We have assembled those we were able to locate here. Note that this is not a comprehensive list of all policies. Sources of information include state statutes, policies, and websites and some personal communications. Online sources are indicated, when available.

Alabama

Licensing Agency:	Each county department of Department of Human Resources and all licensed child placing agencies license their homes.
Licensing Requirements:	Alabama DHR, Social Services Division, Administrative Code: Chapter 660-5-29 Minimum Standards for Foster Family Homes http://www.alabamaadministrativecode.state.al.us/docs/hres/5HRES29.htm
Types of Licenses:	Foster family homes are approved as boarding homes (non-relative, family receives board payment), free homes, or maternity centers. A provisional license can be granted to a person who has an existing relationship with a child who comes into custody. The caretaker has six months to be trained, get background checks completed and finish the final approval process.
Criminal History Check	Local police checks and criminal background checks through ABI and FBI (fingerprints) for each adult household member and substitute caregivers providing care in the foster home.
Child Abuse Registry Check	The applicants sign a release for the Central Registry. It is sent to the state office by the county and returned with results of search.
Time for Licensure:	5+ months
Length of License:	1 year with a 6-month review
Kinship Care:	No provision. See provisional license above.

Dual Licensure:	No. Approval for foster family homes does not apply to adoption applications. Dual approvals require both an application for foster family homes and an adoption application.
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	The agency, private or county/state, that licensed the home is responsible for monitoring the homes, including doing the inspections
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	The agency that licensed the home is responsible for following up on complaints concerning the home. If the complaint elevates to a report of abuse in a private agency, then the County Department of Human Resources has to do an investigation as well as if it is a home licensed by the state.

Alaska

Licensing Agency:	Foster home license issued by Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Office of Children's Services (OCS). Licensed child placing agencies also license foster homes; licenses are reviewed by OCS.
Licensing Requirements:	Alaska Administrative Code, Chapter 50. Community Care Licensing http://touchngo.com/lglcntr/akstats/AAC/Title07/Chapter050.htm Office of Childrens Services Child Care Licensing Manual http://health.hss.state.ak.us/ocs/Publications/
Types of Licenses:	New homes receive a provisional license, which is valid for one year. After that, license is changed to biennial license. A foster home applicant may receive a provisional license on an emergency basis if 1) an emergency exists, a child must be immediately placed in foster care, and there is no other licensed foster home available, or 2) an applicant comes forward with whom the child has a positive relationship and that placement would reduce the trauma of placement for the child. This is good for 90 days to allow the foster parent and the worker to compete the licensing process. A foster home may be issued a specialization to accept children for emergency shelter care. Other specializations include boarding care (providing care to children age 16 and older residing outside their home communities for the purpose of obtaining an education), supervised transition living, and care for pregnant and parenting adolescents.
Criminal History Check	Name-based check through the statewide database with Public Safety; State and FBI fingerprint background checks.
Child Abuse Registry Check	Completed by the licensing staff, with assistance from the criminal background unit as well.

Time for Licensure:	5 months+
Length of License:	A provisional license is good for up to one year. The provisional is issued for the first year; a biennial license is valid for up to two years.
Kinship Care:	Kinship families are not required to be licensed foster parents.; however, many kinship families elect to be licensed for foster care. When the family elects to be licensed, the family must meet all of the necessary foster care licensing requirements, including the criminal background requirements listed above.
Dual Licensure:	No. Current practice requires a separate foster care licensing and adoption approval process.
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	Monitoring inspections are conducted by the agency which licenses the foster home. In most cases, these homes are monitored by the OCS.
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	Complaint investigations are conducted by the agency which licenses the foster home. In most cases, these investigations are conducted by the OCS.

Arizona

Licensing Agency:	The Department of Economic Security (DES), Office of Licensing, Certification and Regulation, (OLCR) is the state licensing agency for all foster homes.
Licensing Requirements:	Arizona Administrative Code, Title 6, Economic Security, Chapter 5, Department of Economic Security Social Services, Article 58, Family Foster Parent Licensing Requirements http://www.azsos.gov/public_services/Title_06/6-05.htm .
Types of Licenses:	Regular foster care license. A provisional license (nonrenewable six-month limit) may be issued to a foster parent who has not completed training, when the Licensing Authority makes a finding of hardship when failure to issue a provisional license would result in displacement of a child or the inability to place a particular child. A home may also specialize as a receiving foster home (able to receive a child 24 hours/day, 7 days/week), respite foster home, in-home respite, or professional foster home (care of "special care" children).
Criminal History Check	Valid Fingerprint Clearance Card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety and completion of the self-declaration criminal history certification. The Clearance Card is based upon a national data base conducted by the FBI.
Child Abuse Registry Check	Arizona Child Protective Services Central Registry checks by DES/CPS Hotline staff

Time for Licensure:	Average 7 months
Length of License:	1 year
Kinship Care:	Kin families, including fictive kin, are not required to be licensed foster parents. They are most frequently court approved based upon a home study (not a full foster home licensing study). The kinship foster care home study is not completed by foster home licensing staff. A process of "alternative method of compliance" (waivers) may be used to license those kinship foster caregivers who elect to seek foster home licensing.
Dual Licensure:	Foster and adoptive parents complete the same application, training, and assessment. Foster homes are licensed by DHS; adoptive homes are certified by the court.
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	"Monitoring inspections" for licensing compliance are usually conducted by the private agency that does the "home recruitment, study and supervision" work
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	Complaints are investigated by the private agency supervising the foster home.

Arkansas

Licensing Agency:	Private foster care child placing agencies licensed by Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Child Welfare Agency Licensing Unit. Foster homes are supervised by DCFS.
Licensing Requirements:	Standards for Approval for Family Foster Homes http://www.state.ar.us/dhs/chilnfam/FosterFamilies.htm
Types of Licenses:	Emergency homes: foster parents agree to provide temporary, short-term care for any child who is referred by the child-placing agency in an emergency situation. The same standards that apply for regular family foster homes also apply for these homes. Planned-term family foster homes: foster parents agree to provide care for a particular foster child until such a time as a permanent plan can be developed and implemented for that child. Respite foster homes: must meet all standards and requirements as a regular foster home. Kinship foster homes: adult relatives within the first, second, or third degree of kin to the parent or stepparent are recruited by the Family Service Worker to provide care for children who are related through blood or marriage. These homes must meet all of the minimum licensing requirements for a family foster home. If relatives choose to be a regular foster home, they will have the responsibility of caring for relative

	<p>and non-relative foster children. There is no distinction in licensing requirements between kinship foster homes and all other approved foster homes.</p> <p>Specialized foster homes: approved to accept children whose physical, mental, emotional, and/or social handicapping conditions are of such degree that only those with special training can provide needed services.</p>
Criminal History Check	<p>Family foster parents and all members of the household age 14 or older shall consent to the Division making a Criminal Record Check. The Division shall repeat an Arkansas State Police Criminal Record Check every five (5) years on any person required to have the check.</p>
Child Abuse Registry Check	<p>Family foster parent(s) and all members of the household 10 years of age and older shall consent to the Division making a Child Maltreatment Central Registry Check in all the states in which the applicant has lived in the last six years, and in the person's state of employment, if different. The person must have no history of true abuse and/or neglect. The Division shall repeat the Child Maltreatment Central Registry Check every two (2) years on all persons required to have the check.</p>
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	1 year
Kinship Care:	<p>Yes. Relatives who are approved for placement of children in their home may choose to be a kinship foster home or a regular foster home. Kinship foster homes will be approved only for placement of relative children. A waiver on a non-safety standard can be granted on a case-by-case basis and is subject to approval by the Child Welfare Agency Review Board. The approval of a kinship foster home can be expedited by providing one-on-one pre-service training.</p>
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	<p>The Family Service Worker will monitor the foster family home at least quarterly for continued compliance with the standards of approval for foster homes. Family foster homes must be reviewed annually; i.e., no later than the anniversary month of the family foster home's approval, to assure that they continue to meet all standards and policy requirements.</p>
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

California

Licensing Agency:	The Community Care Licensing Division of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) licenses foster family homes (FFH) and Foster Family Agencies (FFA). FFAs certify Certified Family Homes (CFH). There are three categories of foster homes: State Licensed, County Licensed (contracted with the California DSS), and Foster Family Agency (FFA) Certified Homes:
Licensing Requirements:	Title 22, Division 6, Chapter 9.5 govern Foster Family Homes Title 22, Division 6, Chapter 8.8 govern Foster Family Agency Certified Family Homes conform to Title 22, Division 6, Chapter 1, General Licensing Requirements and Chapter 4, Small Family Home. http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/CCRTitle22_715.htm A site visit to the proposed foster family home
Types of Licenses:	Regular foster care: FFH and Approved Homes (see Kinship Care). There are two types of FFA programs: treatment foster care or therapeutic foster care, and nontreatment foster care. An agency providing treatment service to a child has determined that the child has services needs which: cannot be provided in an available family home, would require group home placement if the child was not referred to an FFA, and can be met by the program offered by the FFA to which the child is being referred. In contrast, a FFA providing nontreatment services certifies a home for placement of a child pending the adoption of the child by that family. The nontreatment FFA provides for a child's basic needs and may provide specialized care services in a "certified" family home if the placement agency has determined that the child has care needs greater than those of a normal foster child; and the placement county has a specialized care system.
Criminal History Check	Prior to the Department issuing a license or special permit to any individual or individuals to operate or manage a foster family home, the applicant and any adults residing in the home shall, unless exempt under Section 89219(b), obtain a California criminal record clearance or exemption, and shall comply with FBI requirements as specified in Section 1522(d)(1)(D) of the Health and Safety Code.
Child Abuse Registry Check	Prior to the Department issuing a license or special permit for a foster family home, the Department shall conduct a Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) review pursuant to Section 1522.1 of the Health and Safety Code and Section 11170(b)(3) of the Penal Code. The Department shall check the CACI for the applicant(s) and all

	individuals subject to a criminal record review, pursuant to Section 1522(d) of the Health and Safety Code and shall have the authority to approve or deny a home license, permit, certificate, employment, residence, or presence in the home based on the results of the review.
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	
Kinship Care:	Approved Homes are the homes of relatives (within the fifth degree of kinship) or nonrelative extended family members (adult caregivers with an established familial or mentoring relationship with the child) that are exempt from licensure and approved as meeting the same standards as those for licensure.
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	<p>State licensed facilities are monitored by Licensing Program Analysts (LPA) who work in the Community Care Licensing Division within the California Department of Social Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prior to licensure, the LPA conducts a pre-licensing visit to ensure the home meets minimal health and safety standards. ▪ Once licensed, LPAs are required to inspect the home not less than once every 5 years. However, LPAs may make case management visits as needed to ensure health/safety of children in the home. <p>County licensed facilities are monitored by county licensing evaluators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Licensing evaluators must make the minimum number of visits (see above) for state licensed facilities. <p>FFAs certified family homes meet the same requirements as state licensed facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FFA staff are responsible for inspecting the homes. ▪ State licensing staff make random visits to certified foster homes on an annual basis to ensure the FFA is monitoring the homes as required.
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	<p>State Licensed Homes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State Licensing Program Analysts investigate the majority of complaints against state licensed facilities. This normally includes personal rights, physical plant or other health & safety issues. ▪ Serious allegations such as physical or sexual abuse are investigated by Special Investigators and may be assisted by or conducted by Complaint Specialists. Collaborative investigations between agencies may also be conducted to determine complaint findings. <p>County Licensed Homes:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ County licensing evaluators investigate complaints against county licensed foster homes. ▪ Serious allegations may be deferred to local law enforcement or child protective services agencies. Collaborative investigations between agencies may also be conducted and utilized to determine complaint findings. <p>Foster Family Agency Certified Foster Families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State Licensing Program Analysts conduct complaint investigations of certified foster family homes. ▪ Serious allegations such as physical or sexual abuse are investigated by Special Investigators and may be assisted or conducted by Licensing Program Complaint Specialists. ▪ Collaborative investigations between agencies may also be conducted and utilized in order to determine complaint findings.
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Colorado

Licensing Agency:	Family foster care homes are certified by county departments; family foster care homes associated with Child Placement Agencies (CPAs) are certified by the CPA.
Licensing Requirements:	Code of Colorado Regulations: 7.700 (general rules for child care), 7.500 (Resource Development), and 7.708-7.708 (Rules Regulating Family Foster Care Homes) http://stateboard.cdhs.state.co.us:8008/CDHS/rule_volumes\$.Volume7s
Types of Licenses:	<p>Family Foster Home: provides care for a child or children not related to the head of household, or a certified kinship foster care home</p> <p>Receiving Home: provides temporary emergency care for up to 90 days.</p> <p>Child specific: the foster child has a prior relationship to the foster parent(s).</p> <p>Whole family placement: also known as "shared family care." Adult parent(s) and foster child(ren) are placed together in the home of a family trained to mentor and support the biological parents as they develop skills and supports necessary to care for their foster child(ren) and move toward living independently.</p>
Criminal History Check	Each applicant for an original license or certificate for a foster care home and any adult eighteen (18) years of age or older who resides in the licensed or certified facility must submit to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) a complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency to obtain any criminal record held by the CBI if they have lived in Colorado more than two (2) years and any criminal record

	held by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) if they have lived in Colorado for less than two (2) years. CBI provides the Department with ongoing notification of arrests, owners, applicants, licensees, and persons who live in the licensed facility who have previously obtained a criminal record check are not required to obtain additional criminal record checks. Any individual who is obtaining a criminal record check and who has lived in Colorado for 24 or fewer months must request that the CBI obtain a criminal record check from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	1 year.
Kinship Care:	Certified Kinship care: Kin are relatives or persons ascribed by the family as having a family-like relationship. These relationships take into account cultural values and continuity of significant relationships. Certified kinship care is considered a form of out-of-home placement and a type of family foster care home. Recognizes individuals with a significant non-relative relationship with a child (ie child specific). Child specific (fictive) applicants must be fully certified as any relative or non-relative foster parent would be.
Dual Licensure:	Single assessment for kin, foster, and adoptive parents.
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	County departments of human/social services and child placement agencies are responsible for certifying and monitoring their family foster care homes. The state periodically monitors the various county departments' foster home files, policies, and practice. The state also has a team that periodically monitors child placement agencies' foster home files, policies, and practice.
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	If the complaints are regarding county foster family care homes, the certifying county department investigates them. A State team that monitors private agencies, investigates complaints from child placement agencies.

Connecticut

Licensing Agency:	Department of Children and Families (DCF)
Licensing Requirements:	DCFS Agency Regulations, Foster and Prospective Adoptive Families http://www.dir.ct.gov/dcf/regslaws/Regulations/REGS17a-145-130.htm#Section17a-145-130

	Policy - http://www.dir.ct.gov/dcf/Policy/Fadopt41/41-1.htm
Types of Licenses:	<p>Foster or Pre-Adoptive Care (General Use)</p> <p>Relative Care (Child Specific): to provide care for a specific, related child(ren). A relative is related to a child by blood, marriage or adoption descended from a common ancestor not more than three generations removed</p> <p>Special Study Care (Child Specific): to provide care only for a specific, unrelated child(ren).</p> <p>Independent Interstate Care (Child Specific): to provide foster or pre-adoptive care for a specific child(ren) who is in the custody of another state or a private, out-of-state child placing agency and who is placed into a Connecticut home in accordance with the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.</p> <p>Licenses must be assessed biennially except that relatives who were certified prior to July 1, 2001 and who remain under a certification status must be assessed annually.</p> <p>Therapeutic foster care is divided into basic and intensive levels. It is provided by private contract agencies who recruit, study and approve foster parents.</p> <p>Foster parents may also be certified to care for children with complex medical needs.</p> <p>A Review Board can grant waivers on legal histories that previously precluded licensure, on a case-by-case basis, only if the applicant meets all other licensing requirements.</p>
Criminal History Check	<p>There are two (2) types of criminal record searches that are required for all candidates for licensure and their household members age sixteen (16) years and older:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * a search by name and date of birth (local and State Police) * a search by fingerprints (State Police and FBI).
Child Abuse Registry Check	The FASU worker shall search LINK, CMS and any other historical records for the names of the candidates and all household members to determine if there is any prior protective service history:
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	2 years
Kinship Care:	Yes, see Relative Care license. Waivers from regulatory requirements except any safety standard may be given on a case-by-case basis.
Dual Licensure:	Yes. By statute, Any person licensed by the Department to accept placement of a child is deemed to be licensed to accept placement as a foster family or prospective adoptive family. On an individual case basis, a family may decide to provide only foster care or only pre-adoptive care. In these cases, the license may

	specify which type of care is appropriate for the family.
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	A FASU Social Worker shall assess the foster or pre-adoptive family biennially to determine if they continue to meet licensing requirements.
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Delaware

Licensing Agency:	Foster homes are approved by Child Placing Agencies, which are licensed by the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Families (DSCYF) Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL)
Licensing Requirements:	OCCL Regulations, Requirements for Child Placing Agencies http://www.state.de.us/kids/pdfs/occl_regs_cpa.pdf
Types of Licenses:	
Criminal History Check	
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	
Kinship Care:	
Dual Licensure:	No
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

District of Columbia

Licensing Agency:	District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA)
Licensing Requirements:	District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, Chapter 60 http://cfsa.dc.gov/cfsa/frames.asp?doc=/cfsa/lib/cfsa/frames/licensing/foster_home.pdf

Types of Licenses:	Foster home licenses include Kinship, Pre-adoptive and traditional and therapeutic/specialized foster home licenses
Criminal History Check	An applicant for a foster parent license must apply for the criminal records check by submitting finger prints on a certified FBI finger print card or a live scan finger printing machine at the Child & Family Services Agency. The finger print cards are sent to the FBI Processing Center in West Virginia and the live scan prints are sent to the same Center electronically. Results of live scan process can be received within 24 hours. Finger print cards sent via mail could render results within two (2) or more weeks. (Generally this process can take up to 6 months).
Child Abuse Registry Check	An applicant for a foster parent license must submit a notarized request authorizing the Child & Family Services Agency to obtain information from the Washington, D.C. Child Protection Register and from the child protection registers in every state in which the applicant has resided or worked in the past five (5) years. These authorizations are submitted to the District and all other jurisdictions indicated. Results are returned to the licensing social worker.
Time for Licensure:	5 months +
Length of License:	2 years; however the license will be suspended during this 2 year period if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the Child Protection Register Clearance is not renewed each year and ▪ the foster parent has not completed fifteen (15) hours of in-service training annually. ▪ Any other documents that may have fallen out of compliance.
Kinship Care:	Recognizes 'fictive kin' and has the same licensing requirements as any other foster home
Dual Licensure:	Yes
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Florida

Licensing Agency:	Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) issues license to foster home approved by licensed private child-placing agency.
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Licensing Requirements:	Florida Administrative Code, Chapter 65C-13 http://fac.dos.state.fl.us/faconline/chapter65.pdf
Types of Licenses:	Family foster homes include emergency shelter family homes, family foster group homes, and specialized foster homes for children with special needs. Emergency family shelter home: must be available to receive children 24 hours per day
Criminal History Check	
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	1 year.
Kinship Care:	Relative Caregiver Program. Home study is required. Funded through TANF. Payment is based on the child's age and subject to availability of funding. The statewide average monthly rate under the program for children judicially placed with relatives who are not licensed as foster homes may not exceed 82% of the statewide average foster care rate.
Dual Licensure:	No
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Georgia

Licensing Agency:	Homes are approved by the Division of Family and Children Services county office. The Regional Director assigns all foster homes (Regular, Relative and Foster-Adopt) an initial approval type of Full Approval or Special Approval. The County Director assigns Temporary Approvals and subsequent Full and Special Approvals. In addition, Child Placing Agencies (CPA) licensed by the Office of Regulatory Services (ORS) approve foster family homes.
Licensing Requirements:	For DFCS Foster Homes: DHR Online Directives Information System, Foster Care Services: Permanency for Children in Foster Care

	<p>http://www.odis.dhr.state.ga.us/3000_fam/3060_fostercare/MAN3060.doc For CPA Foster Homes: DHR ORS Regulations, Section 290-9-2 Child-Placing Agencies http://www2.state.ga.us/Departments/DHR/ORS/</p>
Types of Licenses (DFCS):	<p>Regular Foster Home: non-relative foster home Relative Foster Home: relative home developed and approved as foster home for the placement of relative children. Foster-Adopt Home: approved for the foster care placement of a specific child for whom the established goal is adoption and may be used for legal risk placements and situations where the rights of neither parent has been severed. Must meet the regular standards of care required for approved family foster home. Full Approval is granted any foster home that meets the Minimum Standards for Family Foster Homes and requirements of the IMPACT Family Evaluation. Special Approval is granted when any of the following circumstances occur in an otherwise "approved" home: an unrelated person resides in the home; the foster parent provides family day care in the home; a foster home has more than 6 children under the age of 16 in the home, including the foster parents' own children, in order to keep a sibling group together; a foster home has more than 2 children under the age of two years old; a room other than a bedroom is used for sleeping space.; a DFCS foster or adoptive home is dually approved as a foster/adopt home for the purpose of placement of a child on foster-adopt status; a DFCS foster home is approved as an adoptive home by a private child-placing agency or the foster home of a private child-placing agency is approved as an adoptive home by DFCS. Temporary Approvals should be used only to meet the needs of an identified child</p>
Criminal History Check	<p>GCIC (fingerprints), CPS check, Sex Offender Registry, Pardons and Parole and Department of Corrections screening are completed. Criminal Records Check (GCIC and NCIC fingerprinting) for foster parents and all household adults (18 and over) are required at least once every 5 years after the initial approval, <i>at the time of the re-evaluation.</i></p>
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	12 consecutive calendar months

Kinship Care:	Yes - see relative foster care above.
Dual Licensure:	Yes - see Foster-Adopt Home above.
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Hawaii

Licensing Agency:	Department of Human Services
Licensing Requirements:	Hawaii Administrative Rules, 17-890, Certification of Foster Family Board Homes for Children http://www.hawaii.gov/dhs/main/har/har_current/AdminRules/document_view
Types of Licenses:	A provisional certificate of approval can be issued for a period of 60 days at the discretion of the licensing agency to any foster home which is unable to meet all licensing requirements at the time the certificate is issued.
Criminal History Check	
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	1 year
Kinship Care:	Yes
Dual Licensure:	Yes. All relative and non-relative foster homes are licensed as foster/adoptive homes.
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	Department of Human Services
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	Department of Human Services

Idaho

Licensing Agency:	Department of Health and Welfare licenses foster homes. The Board of Health and Welfare licenses child placing agencies, which then certify foster homes which are exempt from licensure requirements provided the standards for approval are no less restrictive than the rules and standards established by the Board.
Licensing Requirements:	Rules Governing Standards for Child Care Licensing, Section 400 - Standards for Foster Homes http://adm.idaho.gov/adminrules/rules/idapa16/0602.pdf
Types of Licenses:	Regular license or certification. Waivers may be granted on an individual case basis, for non-safety foster care rules, and must be approved every six months. Variances may be granted on an individual cases basis, for non-safety licensing rules when there is no adverse effect on the health, safety, and well-being of a child, and must be approved every six months. A provisional license or certification may be issued when a licensing standard cannot be met but can be expected to be corrected within six months, provided it does not affect the health, safety and well-being of any child in care at the home or facility. A limited license may be issued for the care of a specific child in a home which may not meet the requirements for a license, provided that the child is already in the home and has formed strong emotional ties with the foster parents; and it can be shown that the child's continued placement in the home would be more conducive to their welfare than would removal to another home.
Criminal History Check	Each applicant for a foster home license, and any other adult member(s) of the household, shall participate in a criminal history background check as required by Section 39-1211, Idaho Code and in accordance with IDAPA 16.05.06, "Rules Governing Mandatory Criminal History Checks".
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	
Kinship Care:	
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections	

Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Illinois

Licensing Agency:	Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and private child welfare agencies
Licensing Requirements:	Administrative Rules, Part 402: Licensing Standards for Foster Family Homes http://dcfswebresource.prairienet.org/downloads/rules/
Types of Licenses:	Licensed foster home.
Criminal History Check	Each foster family home applicant and adult member of the household shall authorize background checks in accordance with 89 Ill. Adm. Code 385, Background Checks and shall submit to fingerprinting to determine if the individual has ever been charged with a crime, and if so, the disposition of the charges. In addition, members of the household ages 13 through 17 must authorize a check of CANTS and the Child Sex Offender Registry.
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	60-90 days.
Length of License:	4 years.
Kinship Care:	<p>Unlicensed relative caregivers are paid a monthly amount equal to the state's "standard of need" rate, which varies depending on the number of children cared for and the county.</p> <p>A relative is currently related to the child in any of the following ways by blood or adoption: grandparent, sibling, great-grandparent, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, first cousin, first cousin once removed (children of one's first cousin to oneself), second cousin (children of first cousins are second cousins to each other), godparent (as defined above), great-uncle, or great-aunt; or the spouse of such a relative; or the child's step-father, step-mother, or adult step-brother or step-sister. Also includes a person related in any of the foregoing ways to a sibling of a child, even though the person is not related to the child, when the child and its sibling are placed together with that person.</p> <p>Recognizes "fictive kin" as potential caregivers. If the fictive kin wants to be licensed, they must undergo the</p>

	same licensing process as any other applicant.
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Indiana

Licensing Agency:	County offices of family and children (COFC) license foster homes, and may contract this out to independent service providers. Child placing agencies licensed by the Division of Family and Children (DFC) also licenses foster homes.
Licensing Requirements:	Section 6, Licensing http://www.in.gov/dcs/pdf/policies/cwmanual6.pdf
Types of Licenses:	<p>Foster family home: foster care by an individual who is not the parent, stepparent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or sibling of the child.</p> <p>Special needs foster family home: provides care for a child who has a mental, physical, or emotional disability; and will require additional supervision or assistance in behavior management, activities of daily living, or management of medical problems.</p> <p>Therapeutic foster family home: provides care for a seriously emotionally disturbed or developmentally disabled child; the child receives treatment through an integrated array of services.</p> <p>A regular license is valid for two years.</p> <p>A probationary license may be issued for no more than six months, and extended for an additional six months, if the licensee is temporarily unable to comply with a licensing requirement and the non-compliance does not present an immediate threat to the health and wellbeing of the child, a corrective plan is prepared, and DFC approves the plan.</p> <p>A waiver may be granted, giving permission for a foster family home to be non-compliant with a specific rule.</p> <p>A variance may be granted for a foster family home to meet the intent of a specific rule in a way other than specified by the regulation.</p>

Criminal History Check	
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	2 years.
Kinship Care:	Relative family foster home: licensed foster family home in which the caregiver is the grandparent, aunt, uncle, or sibling of the child. All relative foster family homes must meet the same licensing/approval standards as those required for nonrelative foster family homes.
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	Some of the counties contract out with private agencies for home studies and some counties that is part of the case managers' responsibilities where foster parents are part of their caseload.
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	Child Protective Services conducts all investigations for abuse or neglect in Indiana.

Iowa

Licensing Agency:	The Department of Human Services (DHS) approves all licenses. DHS also licenses child-placing agencies, which conduct licensing assessments and make licensing recommendations to DHS.
Licensing Requirements:	Iowa Code, Chapter 237, Child Foster Care Facilities http://www.legis.state.ia.us/IowaLaw.html Iowa 441 Administrative Code http://www4.legis.state.ia.us/IAhtml/441.htm DHS Policy Manual, Foster Family Home Licensing http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/policyanalysis/PolicyManualPages/SocialServ.htm
Types of Licenses:	A provisional license may be granted for the time period needed for the family to meet the standards, up to a maximum of one year, when the foster family fails to meet all the licensing requirements, a provisional license has not previously been issued to the foster family for the same deficiencies, the deficiencies do not present an immediate danger to a foster child's physical or mental health and do not directly affect the quality of care to be provided to a foster child.

	For treatment foster care, a treatment certification seal is attached to the license.
Criminal History Check	
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	1 year.
Kinship Care:	
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Kansas

Licensing Agency:	<p>Children in the custody of the Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) who are under the age of 16 years and who are placed out of the home with unrelated care givers must reside in living arrangements that are licensed by Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).</p> <p>Children, no matter what age, in the custody of the Secretary of SRS who are living with individuals related to them by blood, marriage, or adoption must reside in homes that are either "approved as meeting KDHE licensing standards" or "approved using Contractor agency standards."</p> <p>Children in the custody of the Secretary of SRS who are over the age of 16 years who are living with unrelated care givers must reside in living arrangements which are either "approved as meeting KDHE licensing standards" or approved using Contractor agency standards." Contractors are strongly encouraged to have homes approved by KDHE as meeting licensing standards in order to maximize federal reimbursement for these placements.</p>
Licensing Requirements:	<p>Kansas Laws and Regulations for Licensing Family Foster Care Homes for Children http://www.kdheks.gov/bcclr/regs/familyfosterhomes.htm</p>
Types of Licenses:	Family foster home

Criminal History Check	A check of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation criminal history database is required for each member of the household age 10 and older.
Child Abuse Registry Check	A check of the Child Abuse/Neglect Central Registry maintained by Social and Rehabilitation Services is required for each member of the household age 10 and older.
Time for Licensure:	The process to become a licensed foster home begins with the family completing pre-service training, the sponsoring child placing agency completing a family assessment, an assessment is made of the home and outdoor environment, and a mutual determination by agency and family in regard to number, ages, and characteristics of the children for whom care will be provided. This process can take 3-6 months. Once all required documentation is submitted to KDHE, a licensing decision can be made within 90 days. There is procedure in place for the sponsoring child placing agency to request a temporary permit for the family to provide care for children pending full licensure. If such a permit is requested, one can be issued as soon as results of background checks have been received—this can take place within 30-45 days.
Length of License:	Non-expiring license with required annual update of the family assessment by the sponsoring child placing agency and renewal paperwork submitted to KDHE
Kinship Care:	<p>Relatives wishing foster home licensure must meet the same standards as other licensed foster homes. It is not necessary for relatives to complete the licensing or training process before caring for related children. Relatives who choose not to provide care for unrelated children and do not seek to become a licensed home through KDHE can care for related children by being approved as meeting KDHE licensing standards and may receive financial assistance. Payments made to these homes are not Title IV-E reimbursable until KDHE has approved them as meeting licensing standards.</p> <p>Relatives may also choose to receive a Temporary Assistance to Families (TAF) grant in lieu of becoming licensed or approved as meeting licensing standards. SRS requires that these homes be assessed as being environmentally as well as psychologically safe for children. The assessment is completed by the agency placing the child in the relative home. The assessment must include the KBI and SRS Central Registry check as well as pertinent social information regarding the family and their interactions, beliefs, etc.</p> <p>Relatives who wish to provide foster care services must be given a choice in payment received for the care of the related child. Payments may be received through TAF payment through the SRS Economic and Employment Support program, financial support from the Contractor, or receipt of benefits (i.e. SSI, SSA) for which the</p>

	<p>child may be eligible. For those relatives requesting financial support from the Contractor, the Contractor should encourage them to be approved as meeting licensing standards through KDHE, as payments made to KDHE licensed or approved homes are eligible for Title IV-E reimbursement.</p> <p>A relative is (1) a person related by blood including a parent, grandparent, sibling, great-grandparent, uncle or aunt, nephew or niece, great-great grandparent, great uncle or aunt, first cousin, great-great-great grandparent, great-great uncle or aunt, or a first cousin once removed. Termination of parental rights does not necessarily alter the blood relationship. (2) a person related by marriage is or was related to the child through marriage and with whom the child maintains a kinship relationship. This includes but is not limited to step parents, step grandparents, step aunts and step uncles to the first degree, even though the marriage may have ended in divorce. (3) legally adoptive parents and other relatives of adoptive parents; (4) a person court-appointed to be a guardian, conservator, or the legal custodian.; and (5) spouses or former spouses (after marriage is terminated by death or divorce) of any persons named in the above groups.</p>
Dual Licensure:	N/A
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	Compliance inspections may be completed by the sponsoring child placing agency or KDHE staff
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	KDHE completes investigations when the complaint is in regard to regulatory issues. SRS completes the investigation when the complaint is in regard to alleged abuse/neglect issues. KDHE and SRS coordinate on investigations when the complaint is in regard to both regulatory and alleged abuse/neglect issues.

Kentucky

Licensing Agency:	The Cabinet for Health and Family Services' Division of Protection and Permanency (DPP) places children in homes approved by DPP. DPP also contracts with licensed Private Child Placing Agencies (PCPs) licensed by the Cabinet's Division of Regulated Child Care. The PCP agency is responsible for approving and licensing their foster homes.
Licensing Requirements:	<p>Requirements for approval of DPP homes: Kentucky Administrative Regulations, Title 922, Family Preparation http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/922/001/350.htm.</p> <p>Requirements for Private Child Placing Agencies: Kentucky Administrative Regulations, Title 922, Standards for Child-Placing Agencies</p>

	http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/922/001/310.htm
Types of Licenses:	<p><u>DPP Foster Homes</u> Basic Foster Care - Medically Fragile -Foster homes caring for children w/Medical issues Care Plus - Children who have behavioral problems & need higher level of care than basic foster care Emergency Shelter - Placement for children 12 and older who are in need immediate, unplanned placement for less than 14 days. PCP Placements Basic Foster Care Therapeutic Foster Care - Placement for children who may benefit from care in a family setting and has clinical or behavioral needs that exceed supports available in basic foster care. Medically Fragile Care - Foster homes caring for children with medical issues</p>
Criminal History Check	
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	
Kinship Care:	The Kinship Care Program requires the relative to pursue permanent custody of the child. Kin are related by blood, marriage, or adoption. Any potential Kinship Care provider must undergo a home study and a Criminal and CPS background check. Kinship Care providers are usually paid with TANF funds. If the Kinship Care provider wishes to be a foster parent, must follow the same requirements that are required for other DPP foster homes.
Dual Licensure:	Homes that are approved by DPP generally are approved to both license and adopt. Private Child Placing agencies can be dually licensed to provide foster care and adoption.
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Louisiana

Licensing Agency:	The Bureau of Licensing licenses foster care agencies, which certify foster parents.
Licensing Requirements:	Not available on line.
Types of Licenses:	
Criminal History Check	
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	
Kinship Care:	TANF payments under the Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP) for eligible relatives - biological or adoptive: grandparent or step-grandparent (extends to great-great-great); full or half sibling, uncle or aunt (extends to great-great); first cousins (including first cousins once removed); nephew or niece (extends to great-great); stepbrother or stepsister. Considers fictive kin as "child specific" and certify in like manner to a relative. No other foster children can be placed as the home is certified only for a particular child.
Dual Licensure:	Yes. Considering certification of all homes as dually certified. but we have not come to an absolute decision as we weigh through the complications.
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	Workers in the state Home Development Program, which is part of the overall Child Welfare agency, are assigned on a regional basis to each foster home. In the past, Home Development workers for the foster family have visited them annually to renew the foster home certification. This is currently being revised and more frequent visitation will occur. It has always been possible for more frequent visitation to occur if the family circumstances warranted. Louisiana also has privately certified foster families. State Home Development workers do not visit these families; the private agency visits the family at a minimum of once per year also to insure the home still meets certification standards. However, these agencies do retain the option of more frequent contact as well.
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	Allegations of child abuse or neglect against a foster family, whether it is a state certified family or a privately certified family are investigated by the state's child welfare agency through the local offices.

	<p>Private agencies may also conduct their own investigations, but the official investigation of the allegations is completed by the state agency. If a complaint is received regarding the care of a foster child in either a state certified or a privately certified family that does not involve a valid abuse or neglect allegation, that is explored further by the child's individual state worker. If the complaint involved a private agency family, the child's private agency worker would also be involved in assessing the situation. If a corrective action plan were needed to change the care provided by the foster family, then the state or private agency worker for the foster family would be responsible for developing and monitoring the plan with input from the child's worker(s).</p>
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Maine

Licensing Agency:	Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Child & Family Services
Licensing Requirements:	10-148, Chapter 16 http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/10/chaps10.htm
Types of Licenses:	<p>Family Foster Care: children cared for are unrelated by blood, marriage, or adoption to the substitute parent(s) and hold a license as a family foster home for children as required by state law.</p> <p>Specialized children's foster home: (also known as Therapeutic Foster Care): utilizes the foster home setting and the foster parents as primary agents in improving the behavioral and emotional functioning of the foster child. The family must hold a specialized children's foster home license as required by state law. The foster parents require additional training and/or experience. This model utilizes a community mental health center or private, non-profit agency to administer, oversee and provide back-up and support for the professional homes under its auspices.</p> <p>Full license: applicant complies with all applicable laws and rules.</p> <p>Conditional license: may be issued when the individual or agency fails to comply with applicable laws and rules. The Department shall specify in writing when and what corrections must be made during the term of the conditional license.</p>
Criminal History Check	With the new Adam Walsh law, Maine will be requiring fingerprint checks.
Child Abuse Registry	Maine has a central registry.

Check	
Time for Licensure:	3-4 months.
Length of License:	2 years.
Kinship Care:	Relatives who are or will become foster or adoptive parents are assessed by licensing or adoption staff using the home study process. Recognizes people the child has a relationship with as potential caregivers, but does not waive licensing standards.
Dual Licensure:	Yes
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	The state conducts inspections.
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	The state conducts complaint investigations.

Maryland

Licensing Agency:	County departments of social service; private agencies license their own homes.
Licensing Requirements:	Annotated Code of Maryland, Subtitle 02, LDSS Foster Home Requirements http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/subtitle_chapters/07_Chapters.htm
Types of Licenses:	Regular license Restricted license: approved to serve a specific foster child or children and only that child or children; considered approved for a 120-day period of time, and then must meet regular foster home requirements
Criminal History Check	Applicant and all household members 18 years old and older shall apply for a State and federal criminal background investigation. Once the foster home is approved, if any new members 18 years old or older join the household, they shall apply for a criminal background investigation within 30 days of moving into the household.
Child Abuse Registry Check	Before a foster home has been approved, the local department shall review Statewide records to determine whether an individual in the family has a prior indicated or unsubstantiated finding of abuse or neglect.
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	1 year.
Kinship Care:	Kinship Caregivers includes individuals who make up the family support system, i.e. relatives beyond the fifth

	degree of consanguinity or affinity. This includes godparents, friends of the family, and other adults who have a strong kinship bond with the child.
Dual Licensure:	Yes
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	Both county and private agencies.
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	Both county and private agencies.

Massachusetts

Licensing Agency:	Foster homes are licensed by the Department of Social Services, or approved by foster care placement agencies, which are licensed by the Office of Child Care Services
Licensing Requirements:	Office of Child Care Services, Child Placement & Adoption Regulations http://www.eec.state.ma.us/kr_regulations.aspx
Types of Licenses:	Kinship care: care in a licensed family setting by relatives or those adults to whom a child and the child's parents and family members ascribe a "family" relationship. Kinship families are related by blood, marriage or adoption or may be a significant other adult to whom the child and parent(s) ascribe the role of family, based on cultural and affectional ties or individual family values. Child Specific: non-kinship individual is identified and licensed for a particular child Unrestricted: individual who has been licensed to provide care for a child not previously known to the individual.
Criminal History Check	
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	2 years.
Kinship care:	Kinship: either a blood relation (i.e., adult sibling, grandparent, aunt, uncle, first cousin) or a significant other adult to whom the child and parent(s) ascribe the role of family based on cultural and affectional ties or individual family values.

	Would waive for fictive as well as blood relations where a waiver may be given.
Dual Licensure:	Yes
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Michigan

Licensing Agency:	The Michigan Department of Human Services, Office of Children and Adult Licensing (OCAL) certifies child placing agencies and licenses foster parents.
Licensing Requirements:	Division of Child Welfare Licensing: Foster Family Homes and Foster Family Group Homes http://www.state.mi.us/orr/emi/admincode.asp?AdminCode=Single&Admin_Num=40009101&Dpt=HS&RngHigh=Child Placing Agency to Foster Home Rule Relationships http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,1607,7-124-5455_27716_27721_27790_27929-55536,00.html
Types of Licenses:	A foster family home license is for 1 to 4 children. A foster family group home license is for 5 or 6 children. Does not issue any type of foster home license for more than 6 children. An original license is 6 months long by statute and is a provisional license. A regular license is 2 years long. A license may be modified to a provisional status based on rule violations. If the provisional is based on rule violations, it will have a number attached to it, i.e. first, second provisional. There cannot be more than 4 consecutive provisional licenses by statute. By policy, the issuance of a third or fourth provisional requires the approval of the Director of OCAL (Office of Child and Adult Licensing, Department of Human Services).
Criminal History Check	The applicant provides written consent for a criminal history check. Currently, a Michigan State Police or out-of-state LEIN check is completed as well as an I-CHAT check. Child placing agencies may also choose to complete checks through the local law enforcement agencies. In order to comply with federal mandates, we will be including fingerprinting in the future.
Child Abuse Registry Check	A records check is conducted for each applicant and each adult member of the household. The check related to previous licenses, criminal convictions and substantiated child abuse and neglect records. If the applicant has been a resident for 5 years, the checks are done for Michigan. A check is completed on a weekly basis to

	match the names of all adult individuals in a licensed facility against new names that have been added to the registry.
Time for Licensure:	Generally about 4 months, but may take as long as a year, depending on how often orientation & training sessions are offered, how soon inquirer submits paperwork, how soon home study can be completed, etc.
Length of License:	License is for a 6-month provisional period. After that, there is a bi-annual renewal process.
Kinship Care:	Recognizes fictive kin as potential caregivers. These are usually unpaid placements. If the fictive kin wants to be licensed, they undergo the same licensing process as any other applicant.
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Minnesota

Licensing Agency:	Licenses are issued by the Minnesota Department of Human Services; county offices and licensed private agencies recommend licensure
Licensing Requirements:	Minnesota Rules, Department of Corrections and Department of Human Services, Licensure and Certification of Certain Programs for Children http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/2960/
Types of Licenses:	Regular Foster Care. There are additional requirements for foster family settings that offer treatment foster care.
Criminal History Check	
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	
Kinship Care:	Recognizes "fictive kin" as potential kinship caregivers, including them in state law definition of "relative." Kin are held to the same licensing standards and requirements as non-related members of the community.

Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	County and private child placing agencies monitor and make annual visits to family foster homes.
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	The county and private child placing agencies conduct licensing investigations. County social service agencies would be responsible to screen and conduct child protection investigation in licensed child foster care homes.

Mississippi

Licensing Agency:	Department of Human Services
Licensing Requirements:	Not available online
Types of Licenses:	Provisional license is issued when all licensing requirements have not been met. Regular license is issued when all requirements have been met as outlined in the Licensing Requirements.
Criminal History Check	
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	
Kinship Care:	
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Missouri

Licensing Agency:	Department of Social Services, Children's Division
Licensing Requirements:	Child Welfare Manual, Section 6: Resource Development; Chapter 3: Resource Family Assessment Process; Attachment B: Foster Family Home Licensing Rules http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/info/cwmanual/section6/

Types of Licenses:	Regular foster care The foster/adoptive care (FA) license is designed to enhance adoption permanency planning for children in CD custody or Class I juvenile courts. Families licensed to provide foster/adoptive care (FA) must be Children's Division (CD) approved adoptive families who are accepting a child for the purpose of adoption. This includes kinship families who are not eligible to receive maintenance and special expense payments because the child is Homeless, Dependent, and Neglected (HDN).
Criminal History Check	
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	2 years.
Kinship Care:	Recognizes fictive kin as relative caregivers. A child may be placed in a kinship/relative home prior to licensure, but only after a safety inspection of the home, CA/N screening, and background checks are complete.
Dual Licensure:	A foster/kinship family must be assessed for adoption if they want to adopt a child in their care. An approved adoptive family must be licensed for foster/adoptive care (FA) if that family requires temporary financial assistance to meet the needs of the child. A foster/adoptive care (FA) license does not apply to foster/kinship families already licensed unless maintenance and special services payment is denied because the child is not eligible for HDN. Kinship families, not eligible for maintenance and special expense payments, may become eligible for the foster/adoptive care (FA) license by becoming approved as an adoptive family.
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Montana

Licensing Agency:	Department of Public Health and Human Services licenses youth care facilities (including foster homes) and child placing agencies, which may be licensed to conduct a licensing study for the licensing of agency youth
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	foster homes, to place children in youth foster homes and/or in adoptive homes.
Licensing Requirements:	http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/cfsd/relatedtopics/youthfosterhomelicensing.pdf
Types of Licenses:	A provisional license may be issued for up to 4 months and may be extended for an additional 2 months. A regular license may be issued for up to one year.
Criminal History Check	<p>A satisfactory criminal background, motor vehicle, and child protective services check is required for each person living in the household. A new applicant must submit a completed fingerprint card so that a fingerprint based criminal records check can be requested.</p> <p>An annual name based criminal records check and a motor vehicle check for licensed foster parents are required for relicensure.</p> <p>Persons formerly licensed as foster parents will be treated as new applicants if the former foster parents have not been licensed for a period of more than one year or if the foster parents have lived out of state for any period of time since being licensed in Montana.</p>
Child Abuse Registry Check	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If an applicant has children, a child protective services check will be requested from all states in which an applicant has lived since the birth date of the applicant's oldest child. ▪ If an applicant does not have children, a child protective services check will be requested from all states in which the applicant has lived in the previous 15 years. ▪ If after 45 days the department has been unable to obtain results from a child protective services check, the applicant must sign an affidavit attesting to his lack of child protective services history or to the details of existing child protective services history. The affidavit will be accepted in lieu of receipt of child protective services history results which are more than 5 years old.
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	1 year.
Kinship Care:	Includes non-blood related persons in kinship definition. These persons may be approved (unlicensed) or licensed as foster parents. Does not waive any licensing requirements except for requirements which include a waiver provision for any licensed provider
Dual Licensure:	Adoptive families are not licensed but are approved. However, a family may be licensed for foster care and approved for adoption.
Monitoring Inspections	An annual visit is required as part of relicensing. Visits are conducted by department staff or by child placing

Conducted by:	agency licensing staff for homes operating under a child placing agency.
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	Licensing complaint investigations are conducted by the department. CPS complaints in a licensed home are investigated jointly by department CPS social workers and licensing staff.

Nebraska

Licensing Agency:	Department of Health and Human Services licenses foster homes, child caring agencies, and child placing agencies. Foster care home licensing is the responsibility of the local office unless specifically assumed by another jurisdiction with approval by Central Office. Child placing agencies which have been granted the authority to act as a licensing agent for foster homes may not be limited to geographic territory.
Licensing Requirements:	Health and Human Services Manual http://www.sos.state.ne.us/business/regsearch/Rules/Health_and_Human_Services_System/Title-474/Chapter-6.pdf
Types of Licenses:	Operating License: effective for two years Provisional License: time-limited, nonrenewable license issued to an applicant who is unable to comply with all licensure requirements and standards and is capable of compliance within the time period stated on the license. Probationary License: time-limited, nonrenewable license that is issued to a licensee who agrees to establish compliance with rules and regulations that, when violated, do not present an unreasonable risk to the health, safety, or well-being of the foster children in care.
Criminal History Check	Each household member age 18 and older, must be checked the State Patrol Sexual Offenders Registry and the State Patrol for a National Criminal History Check with the Identification Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
Child Abuse Registry Check	Each household member age 13 and older must be checked with the State Central Register of child protection cases and each household member age 18 and older must be checked with the Adult Protective Services Central Registry.
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	2 years.
Kinship Care:	An approval study is completed for relatives or persons known to the child before placement. If an approval

	<p>study indicates placement is appropriate, children from one or more families who are related to the caregiver may be placed without the caregiver's being licensed to provide foster care. Waiver of the pre-service training requirement can be made on a case-by-case basis.</p>
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	<p>Upon receipt of a complaint alleging child abuse/neglect, the licensing agent shall report the alleged abuse/neglect to the proper law enforcement agency or Child Protective Services. Following the Child Protective Services investigation, the agent shall obtain a report and review it for potential action regarding the person's license.</p> <p>For complaints regarding violations of licensing standards and are not related to abuse/neglect, the licensing agent shall initiate an investigation.</p> <p>For those child placing agencies that license foster homes, the Department shall develop a protocol that addresses how complaints will be handled in the agency, including the reporting of all complaints to the appropriate authority, and obtain information from agencies regarding their complaint investigations.</p>

Nevada

Licensing Agency:	Department of Human Resources, and county and city licensing agencies
Licensing Requirements:	Nevada Administrative Code, Chapter 424 http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NAC/NAC-424.html
Types of Licenses:	Foster care licenses include resource families who are providing foster care, emergency shelter care, group (higher level) care, interstate compact, and adoption.
Criminal History Check	Clearance through local law enforcement and submittal of fingerprints pursuant to NRS 424.033 and NAC 424.195 and 424.280;
Child Abuse Registry Check	Clearance through the statewide central registry established pursuant to NRS 432.100 on all applicants and members of the household who are 18 years of age or older;
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	

Kinship Care:	Relatives include a non-custodial parent, aunts and uncles, or grandparents. In some cases, fictive family is considered as a placement for a child. Once a kinship care provider has been identified, they must be able to demonstrate all the same health and safety requirements as traditional foster parents.
Dual Licensure:	Single home study and license for foster and pre-adoptive homes. Approval must be obtained from licensing entity to hold both a child care license and a foster/adoptive care license.
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

New Hampshire

Licensing Agency:	DCYF and child-placing agencies which are licensed to issue foster family care licenses or permits
Licensing Requirements:	New Hampshire Rules, Chapter He-C 6400 Program and Service Information, Part He-C 6446 Foster Family Care Licensing Requirements http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/he-C6400.html
Types of Licenses:	General care, Emergency care, Specialized care, and Assessment care A permit may be issued to a licensed foster home when the foster parent changes residence to allow the foster home to become eligible for licensure, or to allow the applicant and the foster family home to comply with the requirements of RSA 170-E, and He-C 6446.03-12 or to a foster parent to allow the foster parent to comply with the requirements of He-C 6446.15 for renewal. A permit may be renewed for one 6-month period.
Criminal History Check	The applicant and all household members 17 years or older shall be subject to a criminal records search through the NH state and local police, and other states if the individual has not resided in NH for the preceding 7 years.
Child Abuse Registry Check	The applicant, all household members 17 years or older and employees of staffed foster homes shall be subject to a central registry check to determine if their name appears as a perpetrator in the central registry maintained by DCYF. State employees process checks through electronic access to the central registry. Private agencies and out of state checks are processed by the office of Central Registry staff on a prescribed form and results mailed to the agency or other state.

Time for Licensure:	6 months+
Length of License:	A license is issued for two years.
Kinship Care:	Recognizes fictive kin as potential placement option, but does not consider these relative placements; foster care licensing rules apply. Would not grant waivers as might for a relative who meets the TANF definition for relatives.
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	DCYF
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	DCYF. Child abuse/neglect investigations are conducted by the Special Investigations Unit of DCYF.

New Jersey

Licensing Agency:	The Office of Licensing (OOL)
Licensing Requirements:	Manual of Requirements for Resource Family Parents http://www.state.nj.us/dcf/divisions/licensing/laws.html
Criminal History Check	State and federal Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) fingerprint background check, in keeping with the NJ Adoption and Safe Families Act is completed for each resource family parent or applicant, each household member at least 18 years old, each new household member at least 18 years old, and each child who reaches 18. If any person specified has a record of criminal conviction, the Dept. shall review the record with respect to the type and date of the criminal offense and make a determination as to the suitability of the resource family parent or applicant to receive or maintain a license.
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Types of Licenses:	Regular foster home Special Home Service Provider (SHSP) foster home: serves children who are medically fragile Emergency foster home: serves children in need of temporary out-of-home placement on an emergency basis for protective services reasons and/or a disruption of a previous placement implemented by the Division Fost/adopt home: approved as a foster home and adoption home, and the caregiver has agreed to foster or

	<p>adopt a child placed in keeping with the child's case goal</p> <p>Contract foster home: directly supervised by a private agency contracted with the Division</p> <p>Placement agency foster home: operated by a public or private placement agency serving children not under the supervision or the auspices of the Division</p>
Time for Licensure:	150 days to 5 months+
Length of License:	Three years
Kinship Care:	Recognizes "Fictive Kin" as potential caregivers; does not waive non-safety standards.
Dual Licensure:	Yes
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	Yearly licensing inspections are done by the Office of Licensing (OOL). OOL also renews each license every three years.
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	Complaints, depending on the allegations, may be conducted by the Institutional Abuse investigation Unit, if it is an allegation of abuse or neglect. If it is a complaint regarding a violation in the resource family licensing regulations, it is conducted by an OOL inspector.

New Mexico

Licensing Agency:	Children, Youth and Families Department and licensed child-placing agencies
Licensing Requirements:	<p>New Mexico Annotated Code, Title 8, Chapter 27, Part 3 Licensing Standards for Foster Care</p> <p>New Mexico Annotated Code, Title 8, Chapter 27, Part 2, Foster Parenting</p> <p>New Mexico Annotated Code, Title 8, Chapter 10, Part 3, Child Protective Services Investigation</p> <p>http://www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/nmac</p>
Types of Licenses:	<p>Regular license: one year license</p> <p>Conditional license: issued pending the receipt of the federal criminal records check; only issued when all other licensing requirements are met and the family has resided in New Mexico for the last 5 years. Valid for 6 months.</p> <p>Specialized foster home license: at least one adult has the required education, training or experience necessary to care for a specialized substitute care child.</p> <p>Relative foster home license: issued by the department to the home of an immediate or extended family member within the fifth degree of consanguinity including documented godparents</p>

	<p>Respite foster home license: issued to a family who complies with the minimum standards, to allow foster children to visit for short periods when the child's original foster parents are unable to provide care.</p> <p>Treatment foster care license: issued by a child placement to accept a child requiring intensive services when the agency has met both the child placement agency licensing regulations and the treatment foster care standards.</p>
Criminal History Check	Local, state and federal background checks are conducted at time of application. Local and state checks are conducted annually at time of re-licensing. Federal background check is conducted when there has been a break in foster care service with CYFD or a child placement agency, or one or both foster parents have resided out of state.
Child Abuse Registry Check	At time of application on all household members of the applicant family; annually at time of re-licensing.
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	1 year.
Kinship Care:	Yes, see relative foster home license
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	CYFD placement staff, through quarterly contacts and discussions with treatment workers. Placement worker conducts a formal assessment of each foster parent every 6 months regardless if there are children in the home.
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	CYFD.

New York

Licensing Agency:	County social service agency or authorized agency can certify or approve foster family homes
Licensing Requirements:	Regulations for Certified and Approved Foster Family Boarding Homes http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/publications/Pub5032.pdf
Types of Licenses:	<p>Foster family home: certified or approved by an authorized agency or certified or approved by a social services commissioner.</p> <p>Approved home: family home with a foster parent who is a relative within the second or third degree to the</p>

	<p>parent(s) or stepparent(s) of the child</p> <p>Approved emergency relative foster home: foster parent is a relative within the second or third degree to the parent(s) or stepparent(s) of the child</p> <p>Certified emergency foster home: foster parent is either a relative other than one who is within the second or third degree to the parent(s) or stepparent(s) of the child or is a non-relative with a significant prior relationship with the child's family</p>
Criminal History Check	<p>Criminal history record checks are fingerprint-based checks conducted with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), for New York State crimes and with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for out-of-state crimes. The authorized agency must obtain fingerprints from any prospective foster or adoptive parent and each person over the age of 18 who is currently living in the home before the foster or adoptive parent is finally certified or approved for the placement of a foster child or approved for an adoptive placement. At each renewal of a foster parent's license each person over the age of 18 who is currently living in the home who has not previously had a criminal history record check must be fingerprinted. The authorized agency must send the fingerprints to the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) where they are electronically submitted to DCJS to conduct a search of its database. DCJS also forwards the fingerprints to the FBI for a search of its database. Results are returned to OCFS, where a criminal record summary is developed and returned to the inquiring authorized agency. Then the fingerprints are kept on file at DCJS and the certifying/approving authorized agency is notified should there be an arrest or conviction in New York State reported in the future.</p>
Child Abuse Registry Check	<p>All applicants must complete the forms necessary to determine whether the applicant and any person 18 years of age or older who lives in the house of the applicant is the subject of an indicated child abuse maltreatment report on file with the State Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR).</p>
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	1 year.
Kinship Care:	<p>Approved relative foster homes have the same licensing requirements as non-relative foster homes. An approved relative is defined as a relative within the second or third degree of a parent includes grandparents of the child; great grandparents of the child; aunts and uncles of the child, including the spouses of the aunts</p>

	or uncles; siblings of the child; great-aunts and great-uncles of the child, including the spouses of the great-aunts or great-uncles; first cousins of the child, including the spouses of the first cousins; great-great grandparents of the child; and an unrelated person where placement with such person allows half-siblings to remain together in an approved foster home, and the parents or stepparents of one of the half-siblings is related to such person in the second or third degree.
Dual Licensure:	Foster home certification/approval regulations authorize concurrent approval of a person(s) both as a foster parent and adoptive parent (applies to both relative and non-relative foster parents).
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

North Carolina

Licensing Agency:	Division of Social Services
Licensing Requirements:	North Carolina Administrative Code, 10A NCAC 70E http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/licensing/10ANCAC70E.htm DHHS Policy, Standards and Procedures for Licensure http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss/csm-40/man/index.htm
Types of Licenses:	Family Foster Home Therapeutic Foster Home {In addition to the provision of family foster care services, the foster parent has received additional training in providing care to children with behavioral mental health or substance abuse problems under the supervision of a county department of social services, local management entity (mental health agency) or private child-placing agency}.
Criminal History Check	For the applicant and all members of the household age 18 and over, the FBI conducts a search for criminal records in the national database and forwards the results back to the SBI. The supervising agency conducts a local criminal history check through accessing the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Department of Corrections Offender Population Unified System and submits the results of the criminal history checks to the licensing authority on the application form.

Child Abuse Registry Check	The applicant, all household members 18 years or older are subject to a check of North Carolina's Responsible Individuals List (subset of central registry) to determine if they have been substantiated for abuse or serious neglect.
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	2 years
Kinship Care:	Must meet the same requirements as applicants for Family Foster Care
Dual Licensure:	Therapeutic Foster Care Parents are also considered Family Foster Care Parents
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	County Departments of Social Services Private Agencies
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	County Departments of Social Services (Child Protective Services) Licensing Authority

North Dakota

Licensing Agency:	Children and Family Services Division reviews all license assessments prior to issuing a license for care
Licensing Requirements:	North Dakota Administrative Code, Chapter 75-03-14, Family Foster Care Homes http://www.legis.nd.gov/information/rules/admincode.html
Types of Licenses:	Regular Foster Care Therapeutic Foster Care: foster parents receive extra training and supports as children in therapeutic care often have additional behavioral or emotional needs. Foster homes providing shelter care may have a succession of children in their home from a very short stay of 1-2 days to 30 days. Foster/Adoptive Care: provides care for a child who is waiting to be adopted by the foster parent.
Criminal History Check	Background checks are required: prior to initial foster home licensure or approval.
Child Abuse Registry Check	A person residing in the home, except a foster child, may not have been the subject of a child abuse or neglect assessment where a services-required decision was made unless the director or foster care supervisor of the regional center, after making appropriate consultation with persons qualified to evaluate the capabilities of the home's resident, documenting criteria used in making the decision, and imposing any restrictions deemed necessary, approves the issuance of a license; and a. The home's resident can

	demonstrate the successful completion of an appropriate therapy; or b. The home's resident can demonstrate the elimination of an underlying basis precipitating the neglect or abuse.
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	1 year.
Kinship Care:	
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Ohio

Licensing Agency:	Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) issues certification after recommendations are received from private child placing agencies (PCPA) and public children services agency (PCSA)
Licensing Requirements:	Ohio Administrative Code rule 5101:2-7-02 http://onlinedocs.andersonpublishing.com/oh/lpExt.dll?f=templates&fn=main-h.htm&cp=OAC
Types of Licenses:	Pre-adoptive Infant Family Foster Care Treatment Foster Care Medically Fragile Foster Home: foster caregiver-based treatment services for children whose intensive health care needs cannot be met in their own homes
Criminal History Check	A criminal records check shall be conducted for the prospective foster caregiver and must be conducted for each adult member of the household.
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	2 years.
Kinship Care:	Kin includes parents, grandparents, including grandparents with the prefix "great", "great-great", "grand", or

	<p>"great-grand"; siblings; aunts, uncles, nephews, and nieces, including such relative with the prefix "great," "great-great," or "great-grand;" cousins and first cousins once removed; spouses and former spouses of individuals named above; stepparents and stepsiblings; and any nonrelative adult the current custodial caretaker or child identifies as having a familiar and long-standing relationship/bond with the child and/or the family which will ensure the child's social and cultural ties.</p> <p>Has an approval process (not licensing) for relatives and non-relatives who are familiar with the family. This process includes criminal records checks as well as other safety checks and assessments on the ability of the family to care for the child. In the case of a non-relative, the placement of course must be approved by the court in accordance with state law. Unless relatives or non-relatives "choose" to undergo the licensing process, they are exempted from non-safety licensing requirements such as mandatory training, etc. The approval process is completed by local children services agencies, however a rule provides for basic requirements for the approval process to assure minimum safety provisions are met.</p>
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Oklahoma

Licensing Agency:	Child-placing agencies that are licensed by Division of Child Care (DCC) Licensing certify family foster homes to DCC. OKDHS licenses homes
Licensing Requirements:	Oklahoma Administrative Code, Title 340, Chapter 110, Foster Home Requirements http://www.oar.state.ok.us/oar/codedoc02.nsf/
Types of Licenses:	Short-term foster care: the initial placement plan does not exceed 30 calendar days. Long-term foster care: the initial placement plan exceeds 30 calendar days. Infant foster care: foster home provides care to infants only.
Criminal History Check	Name search by the state Bureau of Investigation which includes Public Safety search and sex offender search, a state and federal fingerprint search, and Internet searches on all adults in the home. For children

	over the age of 13 living in the foster home, a juvenile records search is completed.
Child Abuse Registry Check	Search of SACWIS data base and Information Management System for CW history.
Time for Licensure:	average 5 months.
Length of License:	OK approves homes, re-assesses annually, and the homes are approved until some action is taken against the home.
Kinship Care:	Recognize fictive kin as kinship. Kinship, whether relative or fictive kin, have to meet all the same standards and requirements that a regular foster home would meet.
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	Both state and private agencies
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	Both state and private agencies

Oregon

Licensing Agency:	Foster homes are licensed by the Department of Human Services. Private child-caring agencies are approved by the Department, and can approve foster homes.
Licensing Requirements:	Certification Standards for Foster Care, Relative Care and Pre-Adoptive Families http://dhsforms.hr.state.or.us/Forms/Served/DE9303.pdf
Types of Licenses:	Regular Foster Care Family Shelter Care: provided to a child who is in need of protection due to a crisis in the child's own home because of abuse or neglect, or for a child in custody and in need of care including, but not limited to, the following reasons: another placement failed, the child ran away, respite care.
Criminal History Check	Any subject individual applying to be a relative caregiver, foster or adoptive parent, or an other person in the household shall consent to a criminal offender information records check at the time of application, and annually thereafter. DHS shall obtain and forward fingerprint cards to request criminal offender information on subject individuals from OSP and FBI
Child Abuse Registry	A child abuse history background check must be completed in the state of Oregon and requested from any

Check	other state where the individual has resided in the last five years;
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	2 years
Kinship Care:	Relative Foster Care: provided to a child in SOSCF's legal custody by a relative. SOSCF payment of foster care to a relative is limited to children who are eligible for federally matched foster care or an Indian child in a relative placement. Relatives who do not receive foster care payments are not required to be certified as a foster home, but they must meet the requirements outlined in OAR 413-200-0100 through 413-200-0230
Dual Licensure:	Yes
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Pennsylvania

Licensing Agency:	Foster homes are approved by public (county) and private foster family care agencies (FFCA)
Licensing Requirements:	Pennsylvania Code, Chapter 3700. Foster Family Care Agency http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/055/chapter3700/chap3700toc.html
Types of Licenses:	Approval Temporary approval: time-limited status which may be authorized when a complete assessment of the foster family has not been made prior to the placement of a foster child Provisional approval: may be authorized when a previously approved foster family is determined, in a reevaluation, not to meet one or more of the requirements
Criminal History Check	
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	
Kinship Care:	

Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Rhode Island

Licensing Agency:	Department of Children Youth and Families licenses foster homes and child placing agencies.
Licensing Requirements:	Foster Care Regulations http://www.dcyf.state.ri.us/docs/fc_reg.pdf
Types of Licenses:	Relative Home: a home provided for a child wherein the primary caregiver is related to the child Probationary license: sets forth terms of remediation and not to exceed a period of 12 months Limited license: specifies the number and ages of children in the home or a particular child.
Criminal History Check	Each applicant and adult household shall have his or her name cleared with the Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Criminal Identification, for evidence of a criminal record. Other criminal background checks may be conducted at the Department's discretion.
Child Abuse Registry Check	The agency will conduct a child abuse and neglect record check on all prospective foster parents and all other persons living in the home.
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	1 year
Kinship Care:	Relatives include: grandparent, including step-grandparent, great grandparent, or adoptive grand-parent; sibling, including half brother/half sister, stepbrother/stepsister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, adoptive brother/sister; uncle or aunt of whole or half blood, including uncle-in-law/aunt-in-law, great uncle/great aunt; first and 2 nd cousins, including cousin whole or half blood, first and 2 nd cousins-in-law; stepmother or stepfather; nephew or niece; including nephew/niece of whole or half blood, nephew-in-law/niece-in-law, great nephew/great niece. The putative father's relatives will be considered if his name appears on the child's birth certificate, if the father has admitted paternity in a court of proper jurisdiction, or if the father has signed an affidavit for DCYF or DHS. Spouses of any of the persons in the above group continue to meet this

	relationship requirement even after the marriage is terminated by death or divorce. RI considers both relatives (definitions already given) and child specific providers ("fictive kin") based on the relationship between the provider and the foster child (ie, a child's day care provider, teacher, long time neighbor, etc.)
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

South Carolina

Licensing Agency:	Department of Social Services. Homes assessed by child placing agencies are licensed in accordance with DSS licensing regulations and issued a license by DSS.
Licensing Requirements:	Code of Regulations, Chapter 114, Subarticle 5 http://www.scstatehouse.net/coderegs/c114.htm
Types of Licenses:	Standard license: issued when all requirements of regulations are met; valid for two years Standard with Temporary Waiver license: issued for up to 90 days; SCDS or the child placing agency is acting in the best interest of children already in placement and for whom stability is necessary. Issued when a standard licensed foster parent moves to a new home and agency is waiting to receive written documentation that the fire and health inspections have been completed, or a standard license has previously been issued and subsequently a household member reaches the age of eighteen years, or a new adult household member has entered the home since licensure, and agency is waiting to receive written clearance on all background checks for that individual. Standard-Exceeds Maximum Number Allowed license: issued when a standard licensed foster parent receives placement of more children than allowed under requirements due to SCDS or child placing agency trying to preserve unity of a sibling group or making an adoptive placement.
Criminal History Check	Background checks shall be documented including criminal history found with SLED and the FBI, and the Sex Offender Registry.

Child Abuse Registry Check	Background checks shall be documented including a review of abuse and neglect history.
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	2 years.
Kinship Care:	Kinship Care Foster Family: a relative family that has been identified and licensed to provide foster care for a specified child or children. SCDSS may waive, on a case by case basis, for relatives or non-relatives, non-safety elements as SCDSS deems appropriate.
Dual Licensure:	No
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

South Dakota

Licensing Agency:	Department of Social Services/ Division of Child Protection Services or licensed child placement agency
Licensing Requirements:	Administrative Rules, 67:42:05:20 http://legis.state.sd.us/rules/DisplayRule.aspx?Rule=67:42:05
Types of Licenses:	Standard general license as per administrative rules.
Criminal History Check	Must be complete prior to licensure and within 14 days of presence in the home following initial licensure.
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	10 weeks.
Length of License:	1 year.
Kinship Care:	Recognizes fictive kin as potential caregivers. These are usually unpaid placements. If the fictive kin wants to be licensed, they undergo the same licensing process as any other applicant.
Dual Licensure:	Yes
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	Licensing staff of agency which licensed/approved the home.

Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	Licensing staff of agency that licensed/approved the home. Reports of suspected incidents of child abuse or neglect may be investigated (Out of Home Investigations) by investigative staff from the Division of Child Protection Services and/or law enforcement depending on law enforcement's desire or need to be involved. CPS is currently in the process of contracting with an individual outside the agency to do Out of Home Investigations for some foster homes in the state, and hope to expand the program to eventually contract all such investigation.
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Tennessee

Licensing Agency:	Department of Children's Services approves resource family homes, which includes foster, adoptive, and kinship care placements
Licensing Requirements:	Administrative Policies, 16-03 http://www.state.tn.us/youth/policies/chapter16.htm
Types of Licenses:	
Criminal History Check	A criminal background check to include TBI/FBI fingerprinting and sex offender registry check must be completed on each applicant, as well as any other adult member of the household.
Child Abuse Registry Check	Child Protective Services records must be reviewed, statewide, to ascertain if there is any history of child abuse or neglect.
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	
Kinship Care:	A child may be placed in a kinship home for up to 120 days before completion of the approval process.
Dual Licensure:	Yes. Adoption-only applications will be accepted from individuals desiring to adopt any child aged 9 or older, any sibling group who will be placed together, any child with physical, mental and/or emotional challenges, and any child for whom an application is required by ICPC. The approval process remains the same for these persons.
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Texas

Licensing Agency:	DFPS's Residential Child Care Licensing (RCCL) division is responsible for licensing and monitoring child-placing agencies (both DFPS and private). It is the child-placing agencies that are responsible for verifying families.	DFPS's Residential Child Care Licensing (RCCL) division is responsible for licensing and monitoring child-placing agencies (both DFPS and private). It is the child-placing agencies that are responsible for verifying families.
Licensing Requirements:	DFPS Rules, 40 TAC §720.48 Minimum Standards for Child-Placing Agencies http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Child_Care_Standards_and_Regulations/MS-CPA-March-2005.asp	DFPS Rules, 40 TAC §720.48 Minimum Standards for Child-Placing Agencies http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Child_Care_Standards_and_Regulations/MS-CPA-March-2005.asp
Types of Licenses:	Foster and Foster/Adopt	Foster and Foster/Adopt
Criminal History Check	A State-based criminal history check for all persons over 14 (name based) and an NCID fingerprint-based check for all persons over 18 (based on Adam Walsh requirements).	A State-based criminal history check for all persons over 14 (name based) and an NCID fingerprint-based check for all persons over 18 (based on Adam Walsh requirements).
Child Abuse Registry Check	For DFPS homes, the verifying worker completes the checks because they are CPS employees and have access to the CPS database. For private agencies, RCCL completes the checks.	For DFPS homes, the verifying worker completes the checks because they are CPS employees and have access to the CPS database. For private agencies, RCCL completes the checks.
Time for Licensure:	6-9 months.	6-9 months.
Length of License:	2 years.	2 years.
Kinship Care:	Most relative or fictive kin caregivers are not verified as foster families. A relative home study is completed to assure child safety and well-being but these caregivers are not required to meet licensing standards. The decision to verify a relative or fictive kin caregiver as a foster home is made on a case by case basis. Staff may request a waiver for compliance with certain licensing standards if the waiver would not impact child safety. Legislation passed in May 2005 directs the agency to develop a kinship care program that will offer limited financial support. The financial support provided will be less than the foster care reimbursement rate.	Most relative or fictive kin caregivers are not verified as foster families. A relative home study is completed to assure child safety and well-being but these caregivers are not required to meet licensing standards. The decision to verify a relative or fictive kin caregiver as a foster home is made on a case by case basis. Staff may request a waiver for compliance with certain licensing standards if the waiver would not impact child safety. Legislation passed in May 2005 directs the agency to develop a kinship care program that will offer limited financial support. The financial support provided will be less than the foster care reimbursement rate.
Dual Licensure:	Yes	Yes
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	RCCL	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	RCCL	

Utah

Licensing Agency:	Foster homes are licensed by the Office of Licensing or certified by licensed private agencies
Licensing Requirements:	Administrative Rule 501-12

	http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r501/r501-12.htm
Types of Licenses:	There are two types of licenses: Foster/Adopt and Specific Foster/Adopt. An applicant who is licensed as Specific is someone who has a relationship with a specific child or sibling group such as a relative or friend of the family. For a Specific license, a home study shall be completed and all licensing requirements met. The Specific license is valid for the duration of the specific placement only and must renewed annually.
Criminal History Check	Criminal background screening, referred to as CBS, requires that all child foster or proctor care applicants or persons 18 years of age or older living in the home must have the criminal background screening successfully completed. This shall be completed on initial home approval and yearly thereafter.
Child Abuse Registry Check	The child abuse and neglect licensing data base shall also be screened for each applicant or persons 18 years of age or older living in the home to see if a report of a severe type of abuse and neglect has been substantiated by the Juvenile Court. This shall be done on initial home approval and yearly thereafter.
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	1 year
Kinship Care:	Emergency kinship placement: Prior to placing a child in shelter care, the Division Child and Family Services CPS worker may place a child in a temporary emergency kinship placement, at the request of the child's parents or guardian, or at this or her own discretion. Safety and health of the child, as well as the best interest, should drive this decision. When the worker takes this action they will ensure that a shelter hearing is requested, as required by law. Kinship placement options include: temporary custody and guardianship to the kinship care giver with kinship support services sometimes court ordered; licensed foster care with the kinship care giver with temporary custody, guardianship, and out-of-home services with DCFS; and permanent custody and guardianship to the kinship care giver and services provided by DCFS when requested by the kinship care giver.
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	For ongoing "inspections," ongoing workers (foster care and in-home workers) are continually doing home visits with the children each month.
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	If the allegation involves abuse/neglect, a contracted private conflict of interest agency, SIPAPU, investigates the case. If the complaint involves a worker's processing of the case or the system handling of a case, the complaint either goes to the internal Constituent Services office, or the state's Office of Child

	Protection Ombudsman (an office outside the agency).
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Vermont

Licensing Agency:	Department for Children and Families (DCF) Residential Licensing Unit or licensed child-placing agencies who have the authority to approve foster homes. These agencies are licensed by the DCF Licensing unit.
Licensing Requirements:	Licensing Regulations for Foster Care, 406 http://www.dcf.state.vt.us/fsd/pubs&reports/index.html
Types of Licenses:	Regular license. A limited license may be issued for the care of a specific child. Variances may be granted on an individual case basis, for non-safety licensing rules when there is no adverse effect on the health, safety, and well-being of a child.
Criminal History Check	Criminal history check for the applicants and all household members age 16 or older.
Child Abuse Registry Check	Check for applicants and all household members.
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	1 year
Kinship Care:	Kinship Care: The placement of a child in custody in a licensed foster family in which one of the responsible caretakers is a relative by blood, marriage or adoption or is a non-relative who has such significant ties to the child that they may be regarded as kin.
Dual Licensure:	Licensed DCF foster homes can be approved for adoption of children in DCF custody based on the DCF foster care license.
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Virginia

Licensing Agency:	Foster homes are licensed by child placing agencies, which include both county departments of social services and licensed private agencies
Licensing Requirements:	Virginia Administrative Code, 22VAC40-130-270 http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+reg+22VAC40-130-270
Types of Licenses:	
Criminal History Check	Yes.
Child Abuse Registry Check	Persons applying to be foster parents and other adult members of the household shall consent to a search of the Child Protective Services Central Registry.
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	2 years.
Kinship Care:	
Dual Licensure:	Being introduced
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Washington

Licensing Agency:	Foster homes are licensed by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) or certified by a licensed child-placing agency.
Licensing Requirements:	Washington Administrative Code, Title 388-148 http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/
Types of Licenses:	Full licensure: meets the requirements established by the state for licensing or approved as meeting state minimum licensing requirements. Foster homes can choose to specialize in different types of care (ongoing care, foster-adopt, respite, interim receiving care, specialized care), allowable under their foster home license.

Criminal History Check	Background check for each person age 16 and older who is not in foster care.
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	
Kinship Care:	Persons related to the child in the following ways: Any blood relative, including those of half-blood and including first cousins, nephew and persons of preceding generations as defined by prefixes of grand, great, or great-great; Stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother and stepsister; A person who legally adopts a child or the child's parent as well as the natural and adopted children of such persons, and other relatives of the adoptive parents in accordance with law; Spouses of any persons named in (i), (ii), or (iii) of this subsection, even after a marriage is terminated; or In cases where ICWA applies an extended family member is defined by law or custom of the Native American child's tribe or, in the absence of such law or custom, a person who has reached the age of 18 and who is the Indian child's grandparent, aunt or uncle, brother or sister, brother-in-law or sister-in-law, niece or nephew, first or second cousin, or stepparent who provides care in the family abode on a twenty-four-basis to an Indian child as defined in 25 USC sec 1903(4). RCW 74.15.020 Most relative caregivers are not licensed as foster families, but they do have the option to become licensed. A relative home study is completed to assure child safety & well-being and ability to meet needs of the child.
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

West Virginia

Licensing Agency:	Foster homes are certified by the Department of and licensed child placing agencies
Licensing Requirements:	Foster Care Policy, Section 14 Foster Care Provider (Homefinding) http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/children_adult/foster/policy.asp
Types of Licenses:	Regular foster care

	Specialized/therapeutic foster care Certified respite provider
Criminal History Check	Check of personal criminal records for all applicants and other adults in the home.
Child Abuse Registry Check	Child and Adult Protective Services record check on all applicants and other household members over the age of 18,
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	1 year.
Kinship Care:	Any person related to the child by blood or marriage, including cousins and in-laws should be considered for kinship/relative care. A person the child considers a relative, such as a godparent or close family friend, may also be considered as a placement resource. Relative caretakers must meet the same certification standards as all foster and adoptive parents. Provides waivers for non-safety foster care standards, in certain situations, when it would be in the child's best interest to be placed with the relative/kin.
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Wisconsin

Licensing Agency:	Department of Health and Family Services(DHFS) and county social services agencies license foster homes; DHFS also licenses child-placing agencies, which license foster homes
Licensing Requirements:	Wisconsin Administrative Code, HFS 56 Foster Home Care for Children http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/hfs/hfs056.pdf Wisconsin Administrative Code, HFS 38 Treatment Foster Care For Children http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/hfs/hfs038.pdf Wisconsin Administrative Code HFS 58:Kinship Care outlines rules and requirements for eligible relatives. http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/hfs/hfs058.pdf
Types of Licenses:	Regular Foster Care

	<p>Treatment Foster Care</p> <p>The Department may make exceptions to specific portions of HFS 56 licensing requirements, via an application to the State's Exception's Panel</p>
Criminal History Check	
Child Abuse Registry Check	
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	2 years.
Kinship Care:	<p>Provides for temporary Kinship Care as well as Long-Term Kinship Care, in which the relative is appointed as the child's guardian. Payments are under TANF.</p> <p>Does not require relatives to be licensed, however, relatives may also be licensed as foster parents.</p> <p>Relative: stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, first cousin, nephew, niece, aunt, uncle or any person of a preceding generation as denoted by the prefix of grand, great or great-great, whether by blood, marriage or legal adoption, or the spouse of any such person, even if the marriage is terminated by death or divorce.</p>
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	

Wyoming

Licensing Agency:	
Licensing Requirements:	<p>Foster Parents Handbook</p> <p>http://dfsweb.state.wy.us/ProtectiveSvc/Programs/FosterCare/FosterParentHandbook.htm</p> <p>Standards for Certification of Providers of Substitute Care Services for Children</p> <p>http://soswy.state.wy.us/Rule_Search_Main.asp</p> <p>http://soswy.state.wy.us/RULES/3233.pdf</p>

	http://soswy.state.wy.us/RULES/3234.pdf
Types of Licenses:	
Criminal History Check	A completed Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) criminal history record prescreen check; Background check through the local law enforcement agency.
Child Abuse Registry Check	A completed abuse/neglect Central Registry check
Time for Licensure:	
Length of License:	
Kinship Care:	
Dual Licensure:	
Monitoring Inspections Conducted by:	State agency - Foster Care Coordinators
Complaint Investigations Conducted by:	State agency - Foster Care Coordinators. Caseworkers investigate allegations of abuse or neglect in a foster home in conjunction with the foster care coordinator.