

Federal Family First Prevention Act (FFPSA) Crosswalk

The Federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) requires each state to meet national standards for foster homes. The Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) foster care licensing standards are consistent with the new model standards.

ORIENTATION	ORIENTATION
Foster Parent Orientation did not contain information regarding medication management.	Medication management information was added to Foster Parent Orientation.
POLICY 5110 AND 5120	CHANGES TO POLICY 5110 AND 5120
Completing the Home Study for an initial license to include: applicants must have a physical exam completed by a licensed health care professional. The Medical Form will be completed and include information on if the applicant is capable of caring for an additional child or children.	Applicants must have a physical exam completed by a licensed health care professional within twelve months of LD receiving the application. INTENT: Language added to note a specific timeframe for the physical exam.
LD workers must complete a minimum of three in-person contacts with the applicants, and at least two of the contacts must be in the applicant's home.	Completing the home study to include at least one scheduled in home interview for each household member.
LD workers must obtain at least three references that have known all of the applicants for at least two years.	Completing the Home Study to note that at least one applicant reference must be from a relative and two from a non-relative. INTENT: Expand references to include a mix of relatives and non-relatives.

WAC 110-148-1320: WHEN WILL THE DEPARTMENT GRANT ME A FOSTER LICENSE?	CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO WAC 110-148-1320
[NOTE: Sections 1-4 of this WAC will not be changed]	--No Changes--
(5) You must have proof of current immunization status for any children living on the premises, not in out-of-home care. We may, in consultation with a licensed health care provider, grant exceptions to this requirement if you have a statement from a Licensed Health Care Provider (MD, DO, ND, PA or ARNP).	You must have proof of current immunizations for any children living in the household, not including those in out of home care. LD may grant a medical exemption to this requirement if the immunization is contrary to the child's health as documented by a licensed health care provider.
(6) We recommend that you have pertussis and influenza immunizations. The department will not license you to serve foster children under the age of two, without proof of pertussis and influenza immunizations for all people living in your home. The department may license you to serve children under the age of two even though you or someone in your home is unable to obtain an influenza vaccination for medical reasons. In this case, a licensed health care provider's statement is required noting that the influenza vaccination would result in severe medical consequences to the person and that there is no other form of the influenza vaccine that would not cause severe medical consequences. All other persons in the home must still be vaccinated.	You and all household members must have pertussis and influenza immunizations to serve foster children who are under the age of two or medically fragile as defined in WAC 110-148-1305. An exception may be granted if the immunization is contrary to your or the household member's health as documented by a licensed health care provider. INTENT: Removes philosophical and religious exemptions. Includes medically fragile children in 0-2. Allows for an exemption to pertussis if it is contrary to health and documented by a licensed health care provider.
[NOTE: Sections 7 and 8 of this WAC will not be changed]	--No Changes--

WAC 110-148-1365: WHAT ARE THE PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FOSTER CARE?	CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO WAC 110-148-1365:
(1) You must be at least twenty-one years old to apply for a license. (2) You must demonstrate you have: (a) The understanding, ability, physical health, emotional stability and personality suited to meet the physical, mental, emotional, cultural, and social needs of children under your care; (b) You must have sufficient regular income to maintain your own family, without the foster care reimbursement made for the children in your care. (3) You may not use drugs or alcohol, whether legal or illegal, in a manner that affects your ability to provide safe care to children. (4) You and everyone residing on your premises or who you allow to have unsupervised access to children must demonstrate they have the ability to furnish children with a nurturing, respectful, and supportive environment.	At least one applicant in the home must have functional literacy (i.e., the ability to read medication labels) and applicants must be able to communicate with the child, DCYF, health care and other service providers. INTENT: Clarifies literacy and communication requirements.

WAC 110-148-1390: CAN I ACCEPT CHILDREN OUTSIDE THE LIMITATIONS OF MY LICENSE?	CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO WAC 110-148-1390:
(1) We have the discretion to allow you to temporarily exceed your capacity. We may do this when you provide care for a sibling group, respite care, placement of a relative child, or because you have demonstrated exceptional abilities to meet the needs of children. The placement must be in the best interest of the child and may not affect the health and safety of other children in the home. (2) The approval must be in writing and we may require a written plan for additional supervision or other requirements before granting approval.	If your home is licensed for six foster children, capacity can not be exceeded except to allow: (a) Parenting youth in foster care to remain with their children; (b) Siblings to remain together; (c) A child who has an established, meaningful relationship with the family to remain with the family; or, (d) A family with the necessary special training or skills to provide care to a child who has a severe disability. INTENT: States specific exemptions to capacity limits.

WAC 110-148-1440: WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR MY HOME AND PROPERTY?	CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO WAC 110-148-1440:
(1) Your home must have adequate indoor and outdoor space, ventilation, toilet and bathing facilities, light and heat to ensure the health and comfort of all members of the household. (2) You must keep your home, property, living areas and furnishings: (a) Clean, comfortable and in good repair; (b) Reasonably free from pests, such as rodents, flies, cockroaches, fleas, and other insects using the least toxic methods available; and (c) Reasonably free from anything that may be a hazard to children. (3) You must keep all toxic materials out of the reach of children and separated from food items. (4) You must provide adequate laundry and drying equipment, or make other arrangements for laundry on a regular basis. (5) People must be able to easily open doors from the inside and outside in all areas of the home that are occupied. This includes closets, bathrooms, and bedrooms. You must also have easy access to the outside in case of an emergency. (6) The cleanliness and care of your home must meet generally accepted health standards for the storage and preparation of food. (7) You must develop a plan with your licenser to address hazardous conditions that are present in your home or on your property. (8) You are responsible for following all local and state regulations such as zoning regulations, local building codes and fire codes. The department may require you to provide proof that you are complying with local regulations.	The home must have a properly operating kitchen with a sink, refrigerator, stove, and oven. INTENT: Clearly defines what an operational kitchen is.

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WAC 110-148-1445: WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER, GARBAGE AND SEWER IN MY HOME?	CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO WAC 110-148-1445:
<p>(1) You must maintain adequate sewage and garbage facilities. You must discharge sewage into a public system or into a functioning septic system or a department of health approved and/or tribal authority alternative system.</p> <p>(2) You must have access to a public water supply unless you have a private water supply tested by the local health district or a private water-testing laboratory approved by the department of health or tribal government. Testing is required at the time of licensing, re-licensing and at any time the department or child placing agency deems</p> <p>(3) The temperature of running water may not exceed one hundred twenty degrees.</p>	<p>You must maintain adequate sewage and garbage facilities, as well as recycling disposal service if it is available.</p> <p>INTENT: Clarifies recycling service is required if available.</p>

WAC 110-148-1455: HOW MUST I KEEP CHILDREN SAFE AROUND BODIES OF WATER?	CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO WAC 110-148-1455:
<p>(1) You must ensure children in your care are safe around bodies of water. You must:</p> <p>(a) Keep all swimming pools and other bodies of water fenced with a locking gate or other DLR-approved safety device;</p> <p>(b) Lock hot tubs when not in use;</p> <p>(c) Make all potential water hazards, including wading pools, inaccessible to children when not in use.</p> <p>(2) All swimming pools and other bodies of water must comply with state and local regulations. You must work with your licensor to establish a plan for the bodies of water based on the development level and behaviors of the children in your home.</p> <p>(3) You must observe the following when foster children are swimming in pools and outdoor bodies of water:</p> <p>(a) Swim only in designated swimming areas; or</p> <p>(b) Require all children age thirteen and under to wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal floatation devices when swimming outside the supervision of a lifeguard.</p> <p>(4) If you have any water-based recreation devices, you must use and maintain them according to manufacturer's recommendations. All children and youth who ride in a water-based recreation device must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal floatation device at all times.</p> <p>(5) An adult with current age-appropriate first aid and CPR or a lifeguard must supervise children swimming under age twelve, and must be able to see and hear the children at all times. Children under the age of five must be within touching distance of a supervising adult or the birth parent at all times.</p>	<p>Your swimming pool must be equipped with a life-saving device, such as a ring buoy. Swimming pools must be emptied after each use and if it cannot be emptied, it must have a working pump and filtering system.</p> <p>INTENT: Clarifies swimming pools must have a life-saving device, and a pump and filtering system if the pool cannot be emptied after each use.</p>

WAC 110-148-1460: HOW DO I PREPARE FOR A NATURAL DISASTER OR EMERGENCY?	CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO WAC 110-148-1460
<p>(1) You must develop an evacuation plan in case of a fire, natural disaster or other emergency. The plan must</p> <p>(a) An evacuation floor plan, identifying exit doors and windows;</p> <p>(b) Action to take for evacuating your home that ensures responsibility for the children; and</p> <p>(c) A plan for notification regarding the whereabouts and well-being of the children following the evacuation.</p> <p>(2) You must share this plan with your licensor and update the plan when circumstances in your home change. The emergency plan will be based on the type of children in your care, and the conditions of your home and property. Evacuation plans may change based on the developmental level and behaviors of children living in your home.</p> <p>(3) Your required plan for natural disasters should include supplies of food, water, medications and other necessary supplies.</p> <p>(4) Emergency evacuation drills shall be practiced at least quarterly with children in your home. You must review evacuation procedures with every child when he or she is placed in your home.</p>	<p>Your home's evacuation plan must be reviewed with children and posted in a prominent place in the home.</p> <p>INTENT: Ensures children placed in the home are familiar with evacuation plan.</p>

WAC 110-148-1465: WHAT OTHER EMERGENCY FIRE AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS MUST I FOLLOW TO BECOME LICENSED?	CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO WAC 110-148-1465:
<p>(1) You must observe all state and local fire codes (WAC 212-12-005). We will determine that reasonable fire safety standards exist in your home based on the children placed in your home.</p> <p>(2) Children must be able to escape from every floor in your home. In most cases, this includes a functional fire ladder available from upper stories.</p> <p>(3) Windows must open to the outside and be large enough for a rescue person to enter and exit wearing rescue gear, unless the building or structure was previously approved by the local fire marshal or building official with</p> <p>(4) You must have easy access to all rooms in your home in case of emergency.</p> <p>(5) We may require you to have an inspection by WSP/FPB or the local fire authority if we have questions about fire safety, or if local ordinances or WSP/FPB require these inspections.</p> <p>(6) Your home must have smoke detectors in operating condition both inside and outside of all sleeping areas. Smoke detectors must also be installed on each story of the home, in all play areas, and in basement. You must install and maintain smoke detectors according to manufacturer's specifications.</p> <p>(7) You must have at least one approved 2A10BC-rated five pound or larger all-purpose fire extinguisher readily available at all times. You must maintain and service fire extinguishers according to manufacturer's specifications.</p> <p>(8) Barriers are required for fireplaces, wood stoves, and other heating systems if you are licensed for children less than six years of age. You must not leave open-flame devices unattended or use them incorrectly.</p> <p>(9) Emergency vehicles must be able to access your home. Your address must be clearly visible on your home or mailbox so that emergency personnel can easily find your home.</p>	<p>You must have at least one carbon monoxide detector on each level of occupancy in the home and at least one near each sleeping area.</p> <p>INTENT: Verifies carbon monoxide (CO2) monitors are in the home.</p>

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<u>WAC 110-148-1470: WHAT ARE THE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BEDROOMS?</u>	<u>CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO WAC 110-148-1470:</u>
<p>(1) Each child must have a bedroom, approved by the licensor, with privacy and space that is appropriate and adequate to +A75:A90meet the child's developmental needs. Children may share bedrooms, in compliance with WAC 110-148-1475.</p> <p>(2) Each bedroom must have unrestricted direct access to outdoors as well as one direct access to common use areas such as hallways, corridors, living rooms, day rooms, or other such common use areas.</p> <p>(3) You must not use hallways, kitchens, living rooms, dining rooms, or unfinished basements as bedrooms.</p> <p>(4) Children must not be required to pass through private bedroom space in order to access common areas of the home.</p> <p>(5) An adult must be on the same floor or within easy hearing distance and access to where children under six years of age are sleeping.</p> <p>(6) You must provide an appropriately sized separate bed for each child with clean bedding and a mattress in good condition.</p> <p>(7) Some children may soil the bed, and you may need to plan accordingly. You must provide waterproof mattress covers or moisture-resistant mattresses if needed. Each child's pillow must be covered with waterproof material or be washable.</p> <p>(8) You must assure that children have access to clean clothing that is appropriate for their age. You must provide safe storage of children's clothing and personal possessions.</p> <p>(9) You must provide an infant with a crib that ensures the safety of the infant, and complies with chapter 70.111 RCW and the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008. These requirements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A maximum of 2 3/8" between vertical slats of the crib; and (b) Cribs, infant beds, bassinets, and playpens must be made of wood, metal, or approved plastic, with secure latching devices and clean, firm, snug-fitting mattresses covered with waterproof material that can easily be <p>(10) You must place infants on their backs for sleeping, unless advised differently by the child's licensed health care provider.</p> <p>(11) You must not have loose blankets, pillows, crib bumpers, or stuffed toys with a sleeping infant.</p> <p>(12) You may swaddle infants using one lightweight blanket upon the advice and training of a licensed health care provider. You must keep the blanket loose around the hips and legs when swaddling in order to avoid hip dysplasia. You may swaddle infants under two months of age unless a licensed health care provider directs otherwise. You must not dress a swaddled infant in a manner that allows them to overheat.</p> <p>(13) You must not use wedges and positioners with a sleeping infant unless advised differently by the infant's licensed health care provider.</p> <p>(14) You must not use weighted blankets for children under three years of age or for children of any age with mobility limitations.</p> <p>(15) You may use a weighted blanket upon the advice and training from a licensed health care provider for children over the age of three years who do not have mobility limitations. You must meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The weight of the blanket must not exceed ten percent of the child's body weight; (b) Metal beads are choking hazards and must not be used in a weighted blanket; (c) You must not cover the child's head with a weighted blanket or place it above the middle of the child's chest; (d) The weighted blanket must not hinder a child's movement; and (e) The weighted blanket must not be used as a restraint. <p>(16) You must not allow children to use the loft style beds or upper bunks if the child is vulnerable due to age, development, or condition, such as preschool children, expectant mothers, and children with a disability.</p>	<p>You must not co-sleep or bed-share on any sleeping surface with children in care.</p> <p>INTENT: To ensure co-sleeping is not allowed.</p>
<u>WAC 110-148-1495: WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMOKING AROUND CHILDREN?</u>	<u>CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO WAC 110-148-1495:</u>
<p>(1) You must not allow smoking in your home. You may not smoke in motor vehicles when children are present.</p> <p>(2) You may permit adults to smoke outdoors away from children in accordance with RCW 70.160.075.</p> <p>(3) These requirements do not apply to traditional or spiritual Native Alaskan/Native American or religious ceremonies involving the use of tobacco.</p>	<p>You may not smoke in motor vehicles used to transport children.</p> <p>INTENT: To make certain a caregiver does not smoke in a vehicle used to transport a child.</p>
<u>WAC 110-148-1510: WHAT REQUIREMENT DO I NEED TO FOLW WHEN I TRANSPORT CHILDREN?</u>	<u>CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO WAC 110-148-1510:</u>
<p>(1) When you transport children in your care you must follow these requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The vehicle must be kept in a safe operating condition; (b) The driver must have a valid driver's license; (c) The driver or owner of the vehicle must be covered under an automobile liability insurance policy; (d) The vehicle must be equipped with seat belts, car seats and booster seats, and/or other appropriate safety devices for all passengers as required by law; (e) The number of passengers must not exceed the vehicle's seat belts; and (f) Each person in the vehicle must use an individual seat belt or approved child passenger restraint system whenever the vehicle is in motion, and follow the law regarding placement of children in vehicles. 	<p>The driver or owner of a vehicle transporting foster children must have proof of current registration.</p> <p>INTENT: Confirms a caregiver has the required registration.</p>