



Orientation: Resource Family Approval

- Five Competency Categories
- Definition of a Resource Family
- Approval of a Resource Family
- RFA Directives Overview
- RFA Caregiver(s) Responsibilities
- Application Process
- Preparing Your Home for RFA Approval

Five Competency Categories

- Protecting and Nurturing Children
- Meeting Children's Developmental Needs and Addressing Developmental Delays
- Supporting Relationships between Children and their Families
- Connecting Children to Safe, Nurturing Relationships Intended to Last a Lifetime
- Working as a Member of a Professional Team

RFA Mission

The mission of the Resource Family Approval program is to promote the health, safety, and quality of life of each person in a Resource Family home. The Mission of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is to serve, aid and protect needy and vulnerable children and adults in ways that strengthen and preserve families, encourage personal responsibility and foster independence.

What is a RFA Home?

A home that provides 24-hour care and supervision in a family setting in the Caregiver's home, for not more than six (6) children, which includes foster, biological, relative, adoptive, and guardianship.



Who are Foster Children?

- ☐ Neglected or abandoned children
- ☐ Physically or emotionally abused
- ☐ Some have been sexually abused
- ☐ Some are drug-exposed infants
- ☐ All ages, including teens
- ☐ Come from every ethnic background
- ☐ Teen parents with their babies
- ☐ Siblings who want to stay together



Assembly Bill (AB) 12

- California Fostering Connections to Success Act
- Creates a new subchapter – Non-Minor Dependents (NMD) in children's community care facilities
- For more information:
<http://cclcd.ca.gov/PG2802.htm>;
<http://www.fosteringconnections.org/california>;
<http://www.after18ca.org>

Do RFA Homes get paid?

- Resource Families do NOT get PAID.
- Resource Families do receive a STIPEND.
- The stipend is to be used for the child's food, clothing, toys, educational supplies, and personal hygiene items.



Approval of RFA Homes

- Approval of a RFA Home is issued to a specific Individual(s) to provide care in his/her home. The RFA directives has a non-discrimination clause.
- If you move, contact your social worker 30 days prior to the move.



Terms of RFA Home Approval



Maximum Capacity
Six (6) Children



No Application Fee



No Annual Fee

Perpetual Approval
(No expiration date)



Types of Visits

□ Announced Visits

- Initial Assessment
- Annual/Required
- Plan of Correction
- Case Management

□ Unannounced Visits

- Complaint Investigations



Responsibility of the Resource Family Approval Program

- Prevention
- Compliance
- Enforcement

Prevention

- ❑ Criminal Record Clearance
- ❑ Valid First Aid and CPR Certificates
- ❑ Health Screening Report and TB test
- ❑ Pre-Service Training
- ❑ ABC's of Basic Baby Care for 0-1 Placements
- ❑ SA/HIV Infant Training for 0-3 Placements
- ❑ Initial Assessment
- ❑ Permanency Assessment

Compliance

- ❑ Once RFA approved, the Caregiver(s) must comply with the RFA Directives.
- ❑ Once the home is RFA approved, RFA Social Workers are required to inspect the home to ensure that the Caregiver(s) is operating within the RFA Directives.

Enforcement

- ❑ When a Caregiver(s) fails to protect the health and safety of the children in care or serious deficiencies exist, the following actions may be taken:
 - ❑ Deficiencies Cited
 - ❑ Office Conferences
 - ❑ Denial of Application/RFA approval (Appeal Rights)
 - ❑ Possible Administrative Action

Caregiver(s) Responsibilities "Reporting Requirements"

- Caregiver(s) must report:
 - Unusual incident or absence
 - Injury or illness that requires emergency medical attention or hospitalization
 - Death of any child

by telephone, email, or fax to the licensing or approval agency and the placement agency within 24 hours or by the next business day, and submit a written report within seven (7) days



Caregiver(s) Responsibilities "Care & Supervision"

- Person providing care & supervision must have a valid age appropriate First Aid & CPR training certificate.
- Supervise children's schedules & activities.
- Monitor food intake or special diets.
- Maintenance & supervision of children's cash resources and personal property.
- Other services as specified on the placement agreement or by the social worker.



Caregiver(s) Responsibilities "Care & Supervision"

- Assist in dressing, grooming, bathing (age appropriate) & other personal hygiene matters.
- Assist in taking, dispensing, & documenting medication.
- Central storage of medications.
- Arranging/Assisting with medical, dental, counseling appointments.
- Provide transportation.
- Maintain house rules for the protection of the children.



Punishment

- Corporal Punishment
 - Spanking, hitting, slapping, hair pulling, pinching, kicking, etc. is **PROHIBITED**
 - Resource Families are MANDATED reporters of child abuse



Complete Home Assessment Process

- All applicants must undergo an assessment process to assess their ability, willingness, and readiness to meet the varying needs of children placed in their home.

Initial Assessment

- Activities shall include:
 - (a) Application Process
 - (b) Background checks
 - (c) Evaluation of Home Environment

Permanency Assessment

- Pre-Approval Training
- Psychosocial Evaluation (Interviews)
- Any additional activities deemed necessary to achieve permanency

CCL Criminal Record Clearance

- Prior to RFA approval, all adults (18 and older) living in the RFA Home must have a Criminal Record Clearance.
- Once RFA approved, a deficiency is cited for each individual who is not finger printed and cleared.

Request for Live Scan

- Every adult in the home must be fingerprinted.
- Fingerprints are provided free of charge and scheduled into your training hours for your convenience through a mobile live scan option.
- You may also arrange for a standard fingerprint appointment between the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM by contacting your assigned RFA worker.

RFA Inspection Checklist



General Requirements:

- ❑ No more than two infants (0-23 months) may reside in the home (special exceptions made for Relative/NREFM's)
- ❑ Children's records must be maintained & kept confidentially
- ❑ RFA care provider(s) must complete 8 hours of training annually

RFA Inspection

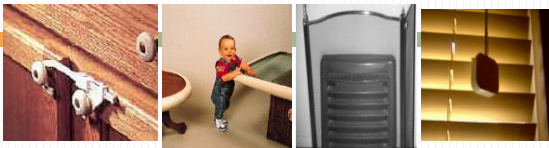
Includes, but not limited to:

- ❑ Living area (fireplace/heater, carpets, furniture clean and in good repair)
- ❑ Bedrooms (linens, lighting, age appropriate furniture, closet/drawer space)
- ❑ Bathrooms (safe, clean & operating)
- ❑ Yard (free from hazards & debris)
- ❑ Pool/bodies of water (made inaccessible)
- ❑ Kitchen area (food, knives, cleaning supplies)



Please refer to handout for further information

Be prepared: Childproof Your Home; Install Safety Devices to prevent access to dangerous items!



First Aid Kits

It is a requirement that a Caregiver have a complete First Aid Kit and a First Aid Manual.



PET Recommendations

- Vaccinations
- License
- Dog Runs

All homes that accept children under 10 years of age or developmentally, mentally, or physically disabled shall ensure that swimming pools, and other bodies of water are inaccessible.



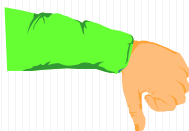
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EXAMPLES OF POOL COVERS



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The following are examples of homes that were not ready for the RFA Inspection....



Will this pass inspection?



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Yikes !



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What do we have here, is this ok?



33

Is this outdoor area safe ?



34

Another unsafe outdoor area



Is this room clean and safe?



What's wrong with this picture?



Review of Pre-Approval RFA Requirements

- RFA-0103 Psycho Social Risk and Permanency Assessment Report
- RFA-0104 (A) & (B) Resource Family Criminal Record Statement
- RFA-0111 Court Orders
- RFA-0112 Personal Property
- RFA-0113 Unusual Incident/Injury Report
- RFA-0102 Adam Walsh
- RFA-0114 Statement Acknowledging Requirement to Report Child Abuse

Review of Pre-Approval RFA Requirements

- RFA-0115 Local Fire Inspection
- RFA-0116 Emergency Plan
- RFA 0117 Childs Personal Rights
- RFA-02 (A) Orientation Certificate
- RFA-000 Control of Property
- DSS CWS 156 Health Screening
- Emergency Plan

Review of Pre-Approval RFA Requirements

- Health Screening Report
- CPR/First Aid Certification
- Completion of Pre-Service Training
- Local Fire Inspection

Review of Post Approval RFA Requirements

- Adherence to RFA Regulations
- Cooperation with Complaints Investigation Process
- Completion of 8 hours of Annual Training

Overview of Important RFA Forms

- Child Care Seat Safety Rules
- Centrally Stored Medication
- Unusual Incident/Injury Report
- Personal Rights- Children's Residential Facilities

Important to Remember...



- ❑ Please submit your original application documents to the RFA Social Worker/Office.
- ❑ An incomplete application may be returned.
- ❑ The applicant, application, and the home must meet RFA directive requirements before approved.
- ❑ Being "approved" as a Resource Family does not guarantee children will be placed in your home.
- ❑ You must comply with the RFA directives, HSA mandates and the placement agency to receive children.

Helpful Hints

- ❑ Print neatly
- ❑ Fill in all spaces/sections (or line-out or write n/a)
- ❑ If you cross out information, please initial it
- ❑ Fill in complete name
- ❑ Fill in complete address (street number, city, zip code)
- ❑ Phone numbers must include area code
