

ARKANSAS REGISTER

Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



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Name of Department _____

Agency or Division Name _____

Other Subdivision or Department, If Applicable _____

Previous Agency Name, If Applicable _____

Contact Person _____

Contact E-mail _____

Contact Phone _____

Name of Rule _____

Newspaper Name _____

Date of Publishing _____

Final Date for Public Comment _____

Location and Time of Public Meeting _____

- To delete references to obsolete forms and procedures outside the scope of DCFS; and
- To make formatting and other technical changes.
- Section VII: Development of Resource Homes & Support to Resource Parents
 - Policy VII-A: Resource Home Definitions and Roles
 - To define the terms “resource home” and “resource parent” and make technical changes throughout Section VII to update the rule with “resource home” and “resource parent” terms;
 - To clarify the difference between a provisional relative or fictive kin resource home and a fully approved relative or fictive kin resource home;
 - To include existing allowance for waiver of non-safety Minimum Licensing Standards and policy for relatives and fictive kin per the federal Fostering Connections Act;
 - To delete obsolete publication references; and
 - To improve formatting and organization.
 - Policy VII-B: Recruitment and Retention of Resource Homes and related procedures
 - To include language emphasizing the importance of conducting diligent search and assessment of relatives and fictive kin throughout the life a dependency-neglect case;
 - To insert references to text application and the resource parent portal as supports to resource parents;
 - To acknowledge in rule that all traditional resource home applications must be submitted online in order to better track and monitor applications and approval; and
 - To improve formatting and organization and make other technical changes.
 - Policy VII-C: Resource Home Assessment Process and related procedures
 - To remove maximum age limit for resource parents (must be assessed on case by case basis);
 - To amend resource home approval and maintenance requirements with federal National Model Licensing Standards and forthcoming Minimum Licensing Standards for Child Placement Agencies, with the exception that applicants may still secure an exemption (medical, religious, or philosophical) in accordance with the Arkansas Department of Health;
 - To clarify that, if provisional State Police Criminal Record Check enters pending status, DCFS staff may work with local law enforcement to obtain local verification of criminal record in an effort to expedite placement with a relative or fictive kin;
 - To reflect that the Arkansas Child Maltreatment Central Registry form is now generated through an online process;
 - To add timeframes regarding submission of FBI Criminal Background Checks for provisional and fictive kin placements, and the name search process when fingerprint submissions are rejected;
 - To reflect new, expedited training curriculum requirements specific to relative and fictive kin applicants;