



# A Place Called Hope

## Licensing

5720 144<sup>th</sup> St. NW. Suite #123  
Gig Harbor, WA 98332

## Case Management/Admin/Finance

7282 Stinson Ave. Suite B  
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Ph: 253-857-5447 Fax: 253-857-0710

Aplacecalledhope.us

September 4, 2018

Dear foster parent

The Federal Government is in the process of implementing “**Family First Legislation and the Proposed Foster Home Licensing Standards.**” The new Federal licensing standards are intended to bring all state foster care rules and procedures into compliance with federally mandated minimum foster care rules.

Most of the Washington State foster care WACs and Procedures currently meet or exceed the proposed Federal rules. However, there will be some changes to the DCYF WACs and Procedures. The Federal standards will be finalized by late 2018. Once the final rules are known, the state will begin work on revising the WACs and Procedures to conform to the Federal standards. The DCYF WACs and Procedures must be revised and implemented no later than April 1, 2019.

We won't know the final format of the new rules until they are released by DCYF, but there are several changes that are expected. The following is a review of the projected changes and if they are enacted as proposed, how they will impact our foster homes.

These are only proposed changes and may look quite different when finally implemented. This information is being presented so you will be aware of the potential changes.

**WAC 110-148-Under what conditions may I have guns and weapons on my property?** In 2015 the WACs were amended to allow guns and ammunition to be stored together in a certified gun safe. The proposed rules are expected to reverse that, requiring that guns and ammunition be stored in separate locked containers. If the proposed changes become policy, they will no longer allow a pistol and ammunition to be stored together in a pistol safe. For readily available pistols, two pistol safes will be required, one for the gun and one for the ammunition. A locked ammunition container stored in a locked gun safe would qualify as separate containers.

**WAC 110-148-1390-Can I accept children outside the limitations of my license?** The proposed rules would prohibit over-capacity except for the placement of a sibling, or the placement of a child with medical needs to a home with foster parents trained to deal with the child's specific medical needs. The proposed changes do not address short term respite over-capacity, so it is unknown if respite over-capacity procedures will change.

**110-148-1455-How must I keep children safe around bodies of water?** The proposed new rules will require all pools that are not emptied after each use to have a working filter system and a safety device, such as a life ring. The proposed new rules will also require a four foot, or higher, fence around a pool, which is currently required by most state licensors, so that should not have a noticeable impact.

**110-148-1465-What emergency fire and safety requirements must I follow to become licensed?**

The proposed new rules will require a carbon monoxide detector on every level of a home and one near all sleeping areas. The current rules require a carbon monoxide detector on each floor, the proposed rule will add carbon monoxide detectors near sleeping areas.

**110-148-1495-What are the requirements for smoking around children?** The proposed policy tightens the smoking rules. In addition to not allowing smoking in the house, car or presence of a foster child, the new proposal would prohibit smoking in a car that will be used to transport a foster child. All smoking rules include vaping.

**Practices & Procedures 5180-Foster parent training.** Medication Administration training will be required prior to being licensed. Existing homes will be required to take the Medication Administration training.

---

*To view the proposed Federal standards, type **Family First Legislation and the Proposed Foster Home Licensing Standards** in your internet search engine or go to:*

*<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/08/01/2018-16380/notice-for-proposed-model-family-foster-home-licensing-standards>*

If you have questions, please call the A Place Called Hope licensing office.

Rachel Soule, Amber Rush and Ted Wilder  
Licensors