

## WACs September 2016 Amendment Summary (Foster Homes)

### WAC 388-148-1425

#### What are my reporting responsibilities when a child is missing from care?

- (1) After contacting local law enforcement, you must also contact the ~~((Washington state patrol's (WSP) missing children clearinghouse to report that the child is missing from care. The telephone number for the clearinghouse is))~~ national center for missing and exploited children at 1(800)((5))843-5678 and report the child missing from care.

### WAC 388-148-1445 What are the requirements for water, garbage and sewer in my home?

- (1) You must have access to a public water supply unless you have a private water supply tested by the local health ~~((authority))~~ district or a private water-testing laboratory approved by the department of ~~((public))~~ health ~~((and/))~~ or tribal ~~((authority))~~ government. Testing is required at the time of licensing, relicensing and at any time the department or child placing agency deems necessary.
- (2) The temperature of running water ~~((must))~~ may not exceed one hundred twenty degrees.

### WAC 388-148-1470 What are the general requirements for bedrooms?

- (1) You ~~((must))~~ may not use hallways, kitchens, living rooms, dining rooms, and unfinished basements as bedrooms.
- (2) Children ~~((must))~~ may not be required to pass through private bedroom space in order to access common areas of the home.
- (3) 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.
- (4) ~~((;and—You must not use crib bumpers, stuffed toys and pillows with sleeping infants unless advised differently by the child's physician)).~~
- (5) You must place infants on their backs for sleeping, unless advised differently by the child's ~~((physician))~~ licensed health care provider.
- (6) You may not have loose blankets, pillows, crib bumpers, or stuffed toys with a sleeping infant.
- (7) 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 may not dress a swaddled infant in a manner that allows them to overheat.
- (8) You may not use wedges and positioners with a sleeping infant unless advised differently by the infant's licensed health care provider.
- (9) You may not use weighted blankets for children under three years of age or that have mobility limitations unless advised differently by the child's licensed health care provider.
- (10) If you use a weighted blanket, you must meet the following requirements:
  - (a) The weight of the blanket may not exceed ten percent of the child's body weight;
  - (b) Metal beads are choking hazards and may not be used in a weighted blanket; and
  - (c) You may not cover the child's head with a weighted blanket or place it above the middle of the child's chest.

(11) You (~~must~~) may not allow children to use the loft style beds or upper bunks if the child is vulnerable due to age, development or condition. Examples: Preschool children, expectant mothers, and children with a disability.

(12) (~~You must assure that children have access to clean clothing that is appropriate to their age. You must provide safe storage of children's clothing and personal possessions.~~)

**WAC 388-148-1475 What are the requirements for sharing bedrooms?**

- (1) Children over age one may share a bedroom with an adult who is not the child's parent only if ~~((the child's physician authorizes it in writing))~~ it is needed for close supervision due to the child's medical or developmental condition and the child's licensed health care provider recommends it in writing.
- (2) An individual in the extended foster care program may share a bedroom with a younger child of the same gender. If the younger child is unrelated to the individual in the extended foster care program, the younger child must be at least ten years of age.
- (3) (~~A youth placed in the extended foster care program may not share a bedroom with a youth younger than ten years of age.~~)

**WAC 388-148-1500 Under what conditions may I have guns and weapons on my property?**

- (1) (~~Guns and ammunition must not be accessible to children, and must be kept in locked containers with guns and ammunition locked separately.~~) You must always keep guns and ammunition out of reach of children. When at home, you must keep guns and ammunition in locked containers out of reach of children. You must store guns separate from the ammunition unless stored in a locked gun safe.
- (2) You must (~~unstring or unload other types of dangerous weapons, and store them~~) keep bows and arrows and other weapons in locked containers out of reach of children.

**WAC 388-148-1520 What services am I expected to provide for children in my care?**

- (1) The department will identify a suitable permanent plan for children in its care and custody. You may not interfere with this plan. You may attend appropriate shared planning meetings to participate in the decision making process and provide input on the child. You may submit information about the child's permanent plan and other issues through the caregiver's report to the court.

**WAC 388-148-1525 What are the educational and vocational instruction requirements for children in care?**

- (1) Home schooling is prohibited for all children in the care and custody of the department.

**WAC 388-148-1540 What privacy must I provide for children in my care?**

- (1) CA prohibits the use of video and audio monitoring of children in the interior of foster homes unless all of the following are met:
- (2) Infants ~~((and toddlers))~~ or children through four years of age

**WAC 388-148-1605 Who can watch my foster child when I am away from home?**

(1) You may use a respite provider as defined in WAC 388-148-1600 to watch your foster child when you are away from home.

(2) You may also use a friend or relative as a substitute care provider for foster children when you are away from home without arranging for a background check. Substitute care provided on an occasional basis~~((;))~~ for less than seventy-two hours~~((;))~~ will be at your own expense. ~~((This may occur))~~ You may use a substitute care provider only when you have no reason to suspect ~~((the substitute care provider))~~ that he or she would be a risk to children~~((, or))~~ and has no founded child abuse or neglect history or criminal history that would disqualify ~~((them))~~ him or her from caring for children. You must also:

- a) Be familiar and comfortable with the ~~((person))~~ substitute care provider who will be caring for the child;
- b) Meet ~~((with))~~ the substitute care provider and review the expectations regarding supervision and discipline of the foster children;
- c) ~~((Be responsible for providing))~~ Provide the substitute care provider any special care instructions; and
- d) If ~~((the))~~ care by the substitute care provider is a regular arrangement, you must have written approval from the child's DSHS worker. The ~~((person))~~ substitute care provider must provide evidence of a cleared Washington state patrol background check and meet additional requirements for members of the household as defined in WAC 388-148-1320~~((2))~~ and (4).
- e) Foster children may provide short-term babysitting for children not in foster care. Sexually aggressive and physically assaultive youth may not babysit ~~((other))~~ children.

**WAC 388-148-1625 Will you license or continue to license me if I violate licensing requirements?**

(1) We may modify, deny, suspend or revoke your license when:

(a) You commit, permit, or assist in an illegal act on the premises of a home or facility providing care to children;

(b) You knowingly provide false information to us;