

CARELINE AND INTAKE

Elimination of Barriers to Licensure, Placement, Family Arrangements and Limitations of Access

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Policy

The Department shall support the elimination of child protection and criminal histories as barriers to licensure, placement, family arrangements and limitations of access whenever safe and appropriate to do so.

Definitions

Barrier review means an internal review that is initiated by the Department through a worker request or through a person who has received notice from the Department that he or she may request an expedited review due to his or her placement on the registry or history of substantiations and the barrier it poses to providing child care. An individual not eligible for a barrier review may still be eligible for an internal review. (See: DCF Policy 22-5, "Appeal Process")

Emergency review means an internal review that (1) is initiated by the Department for purposes of imminent placement and (2) because it is an emergency, needs to be completed, to the extent possible, within one business day.

Licensure means the department's granting of a license to a person as a foster parent for general use, relative care, fictive kin care or independent interstate care.

Placement means the department's placement of a child in the care of a licensed or approved foster parent.

Family Arrangement means a non-legal arrangement in which a parent or guardian allows a third party to assume primary care and supervision of a child, either in or out of the parent's or guardian's home, with DCF support and approval.

Limitation of Access means the limitation by the department of a person's access to a child as authorized by the parent, guardian or person responsible for said child.

Child Protection History shall mean any substantiation of a person for the abuse or neglect of a child, as well as placement of a person on the Department's Child Abuse and Neglect Central Registry.

Criminal History shall mean a person's criminal history records, both historical and pending.

Mandatory Review

Except as set forth below, there shall be a mandatory review whenever a person's child protection history and/or criminal history has been identified as a barrier to licensure, placement, approval of a family arrangement, or has otherwise resulted in a limitation of access. When staff encounter such a barrier, they must submit a request for an emergency review or an expedited barrier review, depending on the circumstances. A mandatory review shall not be required if the proposed licensure, placement, family arrangement or family access is not possible due to an order of court and/or by statute, regulation or departmental policy.

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Child Protection History: Process for Mandatory Review

A request for an emergency review shall be sent to dcf.emergencyplacements@ct.gov, and completed, to the extent possible, within the same business day that the request is submitted.

A request for a barrier review shall be sent to dcf.barrierplacements@ct.gov and completed within three (3) business day of the barrier being identified. Both barrier and emergency reviews shall be conducted in accordance with DCF Policies 22-4, "Central Registry Placements" and 22-5, "Appeal Process" and shall be documented in the computer system.

Requests submitted to either of the above e-mail addresses must include the DCF- 2214, "Barrier to Placement Review Request", which provides details about the circumstances that have led to the request.

If a substantiation with a recommendation for registry remains after the above review, a request for waiver shall not be submitted. The placement of a person on the Central Registry is a safety requirement that cannot be waived.

If a substantiation without placement on the Central Registry remains after the above review, such substantiation shall be submitted for waiver unless the substantiation or registry placement has been the subject of a previously denied waiver request.

Waiver consideration shall be conducted on an expedited basis in accordance with DCF Policy 24-1, "Foster Care Services" and shall be documented in the computer system.

The request for a waiver should be submitted using the DCF-009, "Foster Care Licensing Placement Waivers Request Form".

Criminal History: Process for Mandatory Review

A request for a waiver regarding a criminal history shall be submitted within one (1) business day of the barrier being identified unless the criminal history has been the subject of a previously documented request for waiver.

Waiver consideration shall be conducted in accordance with DCF Policy 24-1, "Foster Care Services" on an expedited basis and shall also be documented in the computer system.

The request for a waiver should be submitted using the DCF-009, "Foster Care Licensing Placement Waivers Request Form".
