 Department of Children & Family Services <i>Building a Stronger Louisiana</i>	Division/Section	Child Welfare
	Chapter No./Name	6 – Foster Care
	Part No./Name	12 – Special Circumstances with Foster Children
	Section No./Name	Special Circumstances with Foster Children
	Document No./Name	6-1245 Areas of Concerns in Foster Care Placements
	Effective Date	July 2, 2025

I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

* All staff are responsible for observing and providing written documentation of any areas of concern which affect any child in a foster home to the child's case worker. At any point in a case, if there is alleged abuse/neglect in a foster home placement, the Foster Care worker is to follow policy 6-1240 Responsibility of the Foster Care worker in an Abuse Neglect Investigation of a Foster Home or Residential Placement. When and Intake case has an approval disposition of "Not Accepted/Refer to Foster Care" the Foster Care worker should refer to policy 4-2015 Local Office Initial Intake Case Activities.

Areas of Concern regarding Foster/Adoptive Families include but are not limited to:

- Community complaints reported since the last recertification completed
- Housekeeping conditions of home is substandard
- The caregiver takes no action to initiate services for the child(ren)
- Frequent requests from the caregiver that the child(ren) be removed
- The caregiver does not adhere to confidentiality policy concerning information shared by department
- The caregiver has difficulty supporting the department's plan for the child(ren)
- The caregiver fails to participate in family focused assessment/evaluations and/or treatment for the child(ren) when requested
- The caregiver fails to participate in school conferences and/or does not work with school personnel
- The caregiver is not supportive of child(ren)'s ties with biological family; and/or
- The caregiver uses inappropriate methods of discipline


II. PROCEDURES

REPORTING AND ASSESSING AREAS OF CONCERN **

1. DCFS Certified Foster Family Homes

*** The case worker for the involved child is responsible for gathering facts *** involving the daily care of a child placed in a DCFS foster home. If more than one child is involved and more than one Foster Care case worker is carrying the children's cases, the supervisors should decide which case worker completes the assessment. If more than one supervisory unit or parish is involved, the Child Welfare Manager(s) shall decide which case worker completes the assessment. If there are no foster children in the home or if the involved child has left the home at the time the * concern ** is reported, the Home Development worker completes the assessment.

It is not expected the assessment of *** * concerns follow the steps required in an investigation of abuse/neglect, but the concern ** should be discussed in depth with the child and foster parent when the problem is first observed or reported. There may be a need for collateral

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contacts in some situations and the persons interviewed, information obtained, and *** and recommendations are documented in the child's case record. The * concern should be documented in FATS. The case worker shall forward the completed [CW Form 604-I, Foster Care/Adoption Worker\(s\) Assessment of Foster Home](#) to the Home Development worker. **
 *** A staffing shall then be held in the manner described below to develop a plan to address the deficiency.

*** The case worker should refer complaints involving certification requirements of the home or family members to the Home Development Unit for assessment and corrective action. ***

* Refer to CW Policy [9-615](#), Recertification of Foster and Adoptive Homes. **


When Home Development develops a corrective action plan, the case worker may be assigned certain monitoring responsibilities. In such cases, the case worker is responsible for sending periodic reports to the Home Development worker as agreed on in the plan, summarizing the progress the foster parents are making toward corrective action.

2. Residential Facilities

*** * Concerns in a restrictive care facility shall be reported by the Foster Care case worker to Centralized Intake for screening and preliminary investigation, if necessary, to rule out abuse or neglect. Reports not meeting investigation criteria ** *** shall be assessed by the Foster Care case worker for the alleged child victim. The Foster Care case worker is responsible for interviewing the child and staff directly responsible for the child's care in the facility to determine the facts of the situation and to resolve the problem at the primary care level, if possible. The Foster Care case worker, * Foster Care supervisor, and Child Welfare Manager are responsible for developing a Quality of Care Concern report ** *** which are child specific and not related to administrative or systems problems. * Foster care staff should submit the Quality of Care Concern report to the CW State Office Behavioral Health and Residential Services Unit.

The DCFS Behavioral Health and Residential Services Unit is responsible for exploration and corrective action for concerns ** *** that are recurring, that involve more than one child, or that indicate administrative or systems problems. The Foster Care case worker shall record his knowledge of the situation in an incident report and forward it for appropriate action to the following persons:

- DCFS Regional * Placement Consultant
- DCFS CW State Office Behavioral Health and Residential ** Services Unit
- DCFS FC case workers for other involved children in foster care
- Facility Administrator ***

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3. *** Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) and Private Agency Foster Homes**

Concerns in Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) and private agency foster homes shall be addressed jointly by the child's Foster Care case worker, **State Office Therapeutic Foster Care Consultant, Home Development Supervisor**, and the private agency case worker. The private agency case worker will develop a written corrective action plan with the foster parents subject to the approval of **State Office Behavioral Health and Residential Services Unit**. The private agency worker and the **State Office Therapeutic Foster Care Consultant ** ***** have the responsibility for monitoring the corrective action plan and systemic corrections. *******

If the deficiency is serious, recurring, involves more than one case worker's children or the children have left the home, the *** State Office Home Development Manager and/or the State Office Behavioral Health and Residential Services Manager **** should be involved in developing the corrective action plan.

4. **Noncertified Foster Family Homes**

The Foster Care case worker is responsible for assessing ***** * any concerns reported regarding** in noncertified caregiver placements. A written corrective action plan should be developed with the caregiver and a copy given to **the caregiver**.

The **Foster Care** case worker and supervisor **shall **** determine if the home remains an appropriate placement for the child.

III. **FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS**

[Form 427 / Instructions](#) Agreement between DCFS and Foster/Adoptive Parents
[Form 604-I / Instructions](#) Foster Care/Adoption Worker(s) Assessment of Foster Home

IV. **REFERENCES**

DCFS Centralized Intake, 1-855-4LA-KIDS/1-855-452-5437

[LA R.S. 14:403](#)

[LA Administrative Code, Title 48, Chapter 41: Minimum Licensing Requirements for Child Placing Agencies with and without Adoption Programs](#)