Foster Care FAQs

1. **When do the automatic license extensions end? How do we handle licenses where the extension will end shortly before the existing renewal period?**

The last automatic three month license extensions will be issued for licenses expiring on July 31, 2021. After that date, licensors are expected to complete the license renewal process by the end of the existing license extension (or the existing license expiration date for any license that has not been extended). License holders are expected to cooperate with the relicensing process and submit all necessary paperwork in a timely manner.

As was true prior to the peacetime emergency, licensors have the ability to request a 1-month extension to a license. During this transition period, licensors may request this extension as needed to manage their caseload. DHS will provide further guidance in July about renewal of licenses where the automatic license extension is ending shortly before the existing renewal period.

2. **If someone completed the online CARS training, as allowed by the waiver, do they now need to complete the 3-hour in-person training? If so, when do they need complete it by?**

The CARS training waiver expires 60 days after the end of the peacetime emergency (August 30, 2021).

- **New applicants or individuals who need CARS training after August 30, 2021:** After the 60-day waiver off-ramping period ends, all new applicants and individuals must meet the child passenger restraint systems training requirements outlined in Minnesota Statutes 245A.18.

- **New applicants or individuals who completed CARS training during the peacetime emergency or 60 day waiver off-ramp period (through August 30, 2021):** Individuals who completed the online CARS training, as allowed by the waiver, must come into full compliance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes 245A.18 and complete in-person training by their next license renewal or December 31, 2021, whichever date is later. (Note: a license can be recommended after August 30, 2021, for any new applicant who completes online CARS training through August 30, 2021.)

- **Existing license holders or individuals whose training expired during the peacetime emergency or 60 day waiver off-ramp period (through August 30, 2021):** License holders or individuals whose training expired during the peacetime emergency must come into full compliance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes 245A.18 and complete in-person training by their next license renewal or December 31, 2021, whichever date is later.
3. **If a foster residence setting hired a staff person younger than 21 under the COVID waiver do they now need to let that staff person go?**

The waiver that allows a staff person younger than 21 years old to work ends on August 30, 2021. License holders that are interested in retaining a staff person younger than 21 years old need to request a variance to Minnesota Rules 2960.3220, subp. 5 under the usual variance procedures.

4. **Are virtual licensing visits still allowed or advised?**

With the ending of the peacetime emergency, counties and private agencies are expected to resume in-person licensing visits by no later than August 31, 2021 (60 days after the peacetime emergency).

5. **Is the eviction moratorium still in effect?**

The [2021 omnibus housing policy and finance bill](https://www.revisor.mn/lf/152019/laws/2021.htm) includes policies to phase out the governor’s eviction moratorium. The bill outlines the situations and timelines in which an eviction is prohibited. More information about the eviction moratorium ending can be found on the [Minnesota Housing website](https://www.mn.gov/mnserv/mnhousing).