

STANDARDS

(CHILD WELFARE RULE NO. 1)

FOR THE LICENSING OF FOSTER BOARDING HOMES

FOR CHILDREN

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

CENTENNIAL BUILDING

ST. PAUL 1, MINNESOTA

BOARDING HOME STANDARDS

FOREWORD

Chapter 257, Minnesota Statutes as Amended in 1957, defines a foster boarding home subject to license and provides that except as specified in the law no person may care for a child unaccompanied by his parent or guardian for all or part of a day without first obtaining a license from the Commissioner of Public Welfare. The Commissioner will issue a license upon the recommendation of a public or private agency authorized by the Commissioner to select homes for children.

It is expected that agencies will maintain files on homes recommended for license, and these files shall be available for review by the Commissioner or his agents as provided by law. Each file shall contain the following to support and justify the agency recommendation:

1. An application for license signed by the applicant.
2. A signed agreement between the agency and the foster parents as to provisions and limitations of the license.
3. Physician's statements,
4. Fire inspection report.
5. A recorded evaluation based on these standards, and supporting the decision to recommend . . . licensing or relicensing of the home.
6. A record identifying children cared for in the home and an evaluation of service given by the home in relation to each child.

These standards are intended to guide agencies in choosing foster boarding homes and to set goals for both foster parents and agencies in their work together. Before recommending that a home be licensed or that a license be renewed, the supervising agency must have considered each portion of the standards in relation to a particular family and the recorded evaluation must fully support the recommendation.

It is not expected that each licensed home will be equally strong in every respect, but no child may be placed in a home where his mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being is in jeopardy.

These standards are written to protect children in boarding care by endeavoring to assure them opportunities for growth and development of all their innate capacities, particularly those for physical health, spiritual and emotional well-being, educational achievement, and social usefulness.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Child Welfare Rule No. 1

STANDARDS FOR FOSTER BOARDING HOMES FOR CHILDREN

I. Definition

- A. This rule pertains to the requirements for the care of children in a facility for foster care described as a foster boarding home.
- B. A foster boarding home is defined as a family home where children out of their own homes are cared for 24 hours a day, for a period of **30** days or more. Foster boarding homes caring for children from more than one family for less than **30** days must also be licensed. The foregoing does not apply to homes caring for children related to the family by blood or marriage, or homes caring for children placed there by authorized agencies for legal adoption. Group homes and other specialized but non-institutional foster care facilities must meet the requirements of this rule with modifications deemed appropriate by the Commissioner.
- C. "Children" means one or more persons under the age of 16, or persons over 16 years of age, but under 21, if for reasons of mental retardation they still require the protection needed by persons under 16 years of age.

II. Provisions of Licensing

- A. The number, age grouping, and sex of children which may be cared for at any one time shall be specified in the terms of each license.
- B. The number to be cared for in one foster boarding home shall not exceed five including the foster family's own children. Homes licensed prior to the effective date of this rule to care for more than five children will be excepted from this limitation on approval of the Commissioner of Public Welfare.
- C. Each license shall **state** clearly the type of children to be received, the kind of service authorized, and any other special provisions of licensure; the license shall apply only to these conditions.
- D. Caring for foster children on a day care basis and a full-time basis in the same home shall not be permitted except as authorized by the Commissioner or permitted in special types of situations by the Commissioner.

BOARDING HOME STANDARDS

III. Evaluation of Family and Home

- A. In order to protect children in boarding care and assure them the maximum opportunities for growth and development, the supervising agency will evaluate each family and home in which children are to be cared for according to the following essential requirements:
1. The family must be motivated by love of children and by desire to give such love to a child not their own.
 2. The foster parents must maintain a stable and harmonious home life.
 3. The foster parents must be able to understand and meet a child's need for affectional ties, and satisfying family relationships. They must be able to offer an accepting and understanding attitude toward the child's problems and behavior, and to provide an environment conducive to healthful readjustment and growth.
 4. The foster parents must be people who can give positive guidance, care and training to a child according to his stage of growth, special abilities and limitations. They must be able to accept and work with behavior that may be a symptom of damaging life experience.
 5. The child shall be treated as a member of the foster family during the period of his care, with respect for his individuality. The foster parents shall encourage his sharing the privileges and responsibilities of the household according to his age and capacity.
 6. Foster parents must be able to accept and deal sympathetically with a child's emotional ties to his family. They must be able to understand that his own family may have meaning for him; even though he is separated from them.
 7. The child's religious heritage must be respected and protected. The foster family's own religious convictions and moral standards must be such as to inspire the child to develop a capacity for spiritual well-being, respect for himself and for others.

IV. Physical, Health, and Safety Standards

- A. Provision must be made for the wholesome play and rest children need to grow and develop.

BOARDING HOME STANDARDS

- B. The foster boarding home must meet **the** requirements of the appropriate health and fire prevention officials with respect to sanitation, sewage disposal, water supply, milk supply, protection against fire, and other hazards to children's health and safety. Homes shall be subjected to inspection of the premises by health and fire prevention authorities. Where local regulations are non-existent or do not provide for inspection, the regulation of the State Department of Health and State Fire Marshal shall prevail.
- C. A foster family applying for a license shall submit a statement from a physician certifying that a recent examination showed freedom from infectious conditions or from disabilities which would place children in jeopardy. The examination shall include a Mantoux test, and if this is positive, a chest X-ray given not longer than six months before the date of application for license. The statement may not be necessary for children who are members of the foster family if current school reports indicate good health. Annual reexamination may be required at the discretion of the licensing agency.
- D. The foster boarding home shall be one that is conducive to the maximum possible health and safety of the child. The boarding home must be accessible to medical and educational facilities as well as to the supervising social agency.
- E. Income of the foster family from private employment or other resources must be reasonably steady and sufficient to maintain an adequate standard of living so far as essential needs are concerned without the income derived from the care of children.
- F. A licensed children's foster boarding home shall not be permitted to have adult boarders or roomers when their presence may adversely affect the well-being of children.

V. Nutrition Standards

- A. Food must be provided the child in such quantities and variety so as to satisfy not only his appetite but also provide for essential nutritional and dietary needs.
- B. All formulas for infants under one year of age shall be prescribed by a physician.

VI. Records

- A. Authorized child-care and child-placing agencies will keep records of homes recommended for license. These shall be available for review by the Commissioner of Public Welfare or his agents as provided by Minnesota Statutes.

BOARDING HOME STANDARDS

- B. Each file shall contain the following to support and justify the agency recommendation:
1. An application for license signed by the applicant.
 2. A signed agreement between the agency and the foster parents as to provisions and limitations of the license.
 3. A physician's statement of the mental and physical health of the foster boarding parents and family members.
 4. A fire inspection report.
 5. A recorded evaluation based on the standards set forth in this rule for licensing of foster boarding homes for children; and supporting the agency's decision to recommend licensing or relicensing of the home.
 6. A record identifying children cared for in the home and an evaluation of service given by the home in relation to each child.

VII. Relationship to Supervising Agency

- A. Foster parents must be able to accept, and work within, the provisions of the license in the planning that must be done for the child. They must be able to accept and support agency planning and decisions when an agency has planning responsibility for the child.
- B. Foster parents shall keep the agency informed of the child's progress. They shall consult with the supervising agency at all times regarding the care, training, and plans for the foster child whenever it involves more than the day-to-day routine. Foster parents' relationship with the child's own family shall not include taking part in plans for the foster child without the knowledge of the supervising agency. Foster parents must secure permission from the supervising agency before taking or allowing the child to go on vacation trips or visits to relatives.
- C. A boarding child must be left in charge of a competent person, who has been approved by the supervising agency, during the absence of the foster parents for 24 hours or more. For shorter periods of time, the foster parents must arrange for supervision of the child in their absence.

VIII. Refusal of License

Failure or inability to comply with the above standards shall be cause for refusal or revocation of license.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 27th day of December, 1956.

MORRIS HURSH
Commissioner of Public Welfare