Rules of
Department of Social Services
Division 40—Division of Family Services
Chapter 71—Licensing Rules for Residential Care Agencies

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Title 13—DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Division 40—Division of Family Services
Chapter 71—Licensing Rules for Residential Care Agencies

13 CSR 40-71.010 Definitions

Editor's Note: Forms mentioned in these rules may be found at the end of the chapter.

PURPOSE: This rule clarifies the terms used in the licensing rules for residential care agencies.

Editor's Note: The secretary of state has determined that the publication of this rule in its entirety would be unduly cumbersome or expensive. The entire text of the material referenced has been filed with the secretary of state. This material may be found at the Office of the Secretary of State or at the headquarters of the agency and is available to any interested person at a cost established by state law.

(1) Chemical restraints are drugs which are prescribed or administered to temporarily restrain a child who presents a likelihood of serious physical harm to him/herself or others.

(2) Child is any individual under eighteen (18) years of age as defined in section 210.481(1), RSMo.

(3) Director is the director of the Division of Family Services.

(4) Division is the Division of Family Services of the Department of Social Services of Missouri as defined in section 210.481(3), RSMo.

(5) Facility is any building of a licensed agency in which children reside.

(6) Intensive residential treatment is provided in a living unit of an agency for gravely, emotionally disturbed youth that has the capability of providing a highly structured and secure environment to prevent runaway behavior, address the likelihood of rage and physical aggression, and minimize the likelihood of youth injuring themselves or others. Intensive residential treatment may be achieved through a combination of staffing patterns, architectural design of the facility, electronic monitoring of the facility and its exits, or other means necessary to assure safety.

(7) License is the legal document issued to an agency by the division for a period not to exceed two (2) years which authorizes the agency to provide twenty-four (24)-hour care for children, subject to compliance with sections 210.481-210.536, RSMo and the applicable rules promulgated by the division (section 210.481(6), RSMo).

(8) Mechanical restraints are any device, instrument or physical object used to confine or limit a child's freedom of movement, except when necessary for orthopedic, surgical and other medical purposes, or when necessary, to transport a child that may abscond or cause injury during transportation. Support devices used in normal situations to achieve proper body position and balance are not mechanical restraints.

(9) Physical restraint is physical holding involving restriction of a child's voluntary movement to temporarily restrain an agitated, violent or aggressive child who presents a likelihood of serious physical harm to him/herself, others or of doing serious property damage.

(10) Residential care agency is an agency providing twenty-four (24)-hour care and treatment to children who are unrelated to the person operating the agency, and who are unattended by a parent or guardian (as defined in section 210.481(10), RSMo as residential care facility).

(11) Social services is the provision of direct services, by plan, to the child and family to identify and resolve problems which negatively have affected his/her development, behavior and social functioning.

(12) Staff are persons employed by an agency.

(13) Transitional living services are services provided to older adolescents that combine life skills training with opportunities to practice same. The goal of such services is to prepare the youth for successful adult living in the community upon their discharge from residential care.

(14) Volunteer is any person who provides direct services to children within an agency, either on or off the premises, without financial compensation.

(15) Well-known religious order, church and religious organization are defined as follows:

(A) A church, synagogue or mosque;

(B) An entity that would qualify for federal tax exempt status as a not-for-profit religious organization under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954; or

(C) An entity where the real property on which the child care facility is located is exempt from local taxation because it is used for religious purposes.


13 CSR 40-71.020 Basic Residential Care Core Requirements (Applicable To All Agencies)—Basis for Licensure and Licensing Procedures

PURPOSE: This rule describes the procedures for application for licensure, the licensing investigation and provisions for continued licensing investigations after the initial license is granted.

(1) Licensing Authority.

(A) Any person who desires to develop, establish, maintain or operate, or both, a residential care agency, except for those persons exempt from licensing pursuant to section 210.516, RSMo, must file an Application for Licensure form with the division and must receive a license prior to accepting any child for care.

(B) Before a license may be granted, an agency must be in compliance with sections 210.481-210.536, RSMo and these rules.

(2) Application for Licensure.

(A) An agency shall submit the following documents to the division:

1. Application for Licensure signed by the applicant;

2. Evidence of compliance with local building and zoning requirements;

3. A floor plan of the proposed site in which the specific use of each room is identified;

4. A signed copy of the Civil Rights Agreement;
5. A chart depicting the agency's organizational structure and lines of supervision; 
6. Written policies and procedures established by the board of directors which clearly set forth the authority and the responsibilities delegated to the executive director; 
7. A copy of the Articles of Incorporation, bylaws and board roster, including the addresses of all officers; 
8. A proposed budget for a period of not less than one (1) year; 
9. Verification of not less than three (3) month's operating capital; 
10. A written intake policy; 
11. Written identification of specific program models or designs which shall include the methods of care and treatment to be provided; 
12. Job title, job description and minimum qualifications for all staff; 
13. A projected staffing plan for the anticipated capacity; 
14. Written child abuse and neglect reporting policy; 
15. Written personnel practices, including staff training and orientation; 
16. Written discipline policy; 
17. Written visitation policy; 
18. Written health care policy; 
19. Written retraining policy which shall include a description of all methods to be used; 
20. A needs assessment conducted and submitted as evidence of need for the type and scope of program proposed. This assessment shall include, at a minimum, an identification and survey of potential referral sources, existing resources and unmet community needs; 
21. Evidence of compliance with fire safety requirements of the State Fire Marshal; 
22. Documentation that the agency’s water supply and sewage disposal system is currently in compliance with the requirements of the Department of Health if not an approved public source; 
23. Verification of a physical examination for all staff working directly with children, completed by a licensed physician, certified nurse practitioner, advanced practice nurse in a collaborative practice agreement with a licensed physician, or a registered nurse who is under the supervision of a licensed physician, for all staff working directly with children shall be submitted utilizing the form prescribed by the division; 
24. A current board roster, including the addresses of all officers; 
25. A summary of any significant changes to programs and copies of any resulting policies or policy changes; 
26. Written description of the recreational program, and the manner in which staff are qualified and prepared to create, organize and supervise them.

(3) Licensing Assessment. 
(A) An application for licensure shall be made by the agency, including a review of the documents required in this rule and visits to the agency to determine compliance with the licensing law and applicable rules. 
(B) If an applicant for licensure is determined not to be in compliance with the licensing law and applicable rules, and if compliance is not achieved within a six (6) month period, a new application for licensure must be filed if the agency desires to pursue licensure.

(4) LICENSE. 
(A) Upon determination of compliance with the licensing law and applicable rules, the director shall issue a license for an initial six (6)-month probationary term. 
(B) Following the probationary period, upon determination of continued compliance with Missouri statutes and applicable licensing rules, the director shall extend the term of the license for a period not to exceed two (2) years. 
(C) The license shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the premises of the facility. 
(D) The number, sex, and age range of children an agency is authorized to accept for care shall be specified on the license and shall not be exceeded. 
(E) The license shall not be transferable.

(5) LICENSE AMENDMENT. An agency shall file an application for Amendment with the division at least thirty (30) days prior to relocation, change in the name of the agency, change in the capacity, and/or age range of children or any major change in the program. These changes shall be approved by the division before implementation.

(6) LICENSING RENEWAL. 
(A) An Application for Licensure shall be mailed by the division to the agency. 
(B) The agency shall complete and return the application to the division within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt. 
(C) The division shall initiate action on the completed application prior to the expiration of the existing licensure period. 
(D) In addition to the completed application, the following documents shall be submitted: 
   1. Verification of a physical examination, completed by a licensed physician, certified nurse practitioner, advanced practice nurse in a collaborative practice agreement with a licensed physician, or a registered nurse who is under the supervision of a licensed physician, for all staff working directly with children shall be submitted utilizing the form prescribed by the division; 
2. A current board roster, including the addresses of all officers; 
3. A summary of any significant changes to programs and copies of any resulting policies or policy changes; 
4. A copy of a current organizational chart; 
5. Annual results of a check of the Child Abuse and Neglect CRU for all staff and volunteers working directly with children; 
6. Evidence of current compliance with the fire and safety requirements of the State Fire Marshal; 
7. A record of monthly drills for fire and emergency evacuations which are held at different times of the day and night; 
8. Documentation that each facility’s water supply and sewage disposal system is currently in compliance with the requirements of the Department of Health if not an approved public source; and 
9. A copy of a financial audit conducted by a certified public accountant not employed by the agency. 
(E) Upon determination of compliance with the licensing law and applicable rules, the director shall issue a license for a period not to exceed two (2) years.


13 CSR 40-71.025 Exemption of Religious Child Care Facilities

PURPOSE: This rule sets forth the requirement that child care facilities must be under the exclusive control of a religious organization in order to qualify for exemption under Sections 710.211(5) or 210.516.1(5), RSMo. 

When a nonreligious organization, having as its principal purpose the provision of child
purposes of multiple or serious reports of child abuse or neglect which upon investigation results in a finding of reason to suspect and the agency fails to take corrective action acceptable to the division; or

5. EMPLOY PERSONS WHO ABUSE OR NEGLECT CHILDREN, PERSONS WHO ARE THE SUBJECTS OF MULTIPLE OR SERIOUS REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT WHICH UPON INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN A FINDING OF REASON TO SUSPECT AND THE AGENCY FAILS TO TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION ACCEPTABLE TO THE DIVISION;

6. Furnishes or makes any misleading or false statements or reports to the division;

7. Refuses to submit any reports or refuses to make available to the division any records required in making an investigation;

8. Fails or refuses to submit to an investigation by an authorized and identified representative of the division at any reasonable time;

9. Fails to provide, maintain, equip and keep in safe and sanitary condition the premises established or used for the care of children as required by law, rule or ordinance applicable to the location of a facility; or

10. Fails to provide adequate financial resources for the satisfactory care of children being served, or the upkeep of the premises, or both.

The division shall provide written notice of denial or revocation of licensure to the agency, which shall include the reason(s) for the denial or revocation. Upon receipt of the notice of denial or revocation, the agency shall cease operation within five (5) working days unless stayed by an appropriate administrative or judicial order.

The agency may appeal the decision of the division to deny or revoke the license by filing a request for appeal with the division. The request for appeal shall be in writing and shall set forth all objections to the decision. The request for appeal shall be filed within ten (10) days after receipt of the notice of denial or revocation. Any person aggrieved by a final decision of the division may appeal to the appropriate administrative or judicial order.

The agency shall provide written notice and the reason(s) for the suspension, including time frame and limitations on intake. (D) When the division suspends the license of an agency, the suspension shall be for a period not to exceed thirty (30) working days, or until there is an administrative review and decision by the director, whichever is first.


13 CSR 40-71.040 Court Review and Dispositional Hearing

PURPOSE: This rule defines the provisions for judicial review and disposition of the children.

The agency shall comply with all applicable requirements of sections 210.710 or 210.720, RSMo, pertaining to judicial review of the status of the child.


13 CSR 40-71.040 Organization and Administration

PURPOSE: This rule sets forth the requirements for the incorporation, administration and financing of an agency.

(1) Each agency shall be incorporated and shall submit to the division its Articles of Incorporation and Certificate of Incorporation.

(2) An agency shall have a governing body responsible for establishing its policies, determining its programs, guiding its development and providing its leadership. Voting members of the board of directors shall not
be employed by the agency. The governing body shall be responsible for:

(A) Developing and maintaining a program of orientation and training for all new members of the governing body;

(B) Determining the size, selection, function and organization of the governing body;

(C) Keeping minutes of each meeting of the governing body, which shall reflect its actions pertaining to and affecting the care and safety of children;

(D) Meeting as often as necessary, but at least four (4) times a year, to conduct the business of the agency;

(E) Conducting an on-site visit to each facility annually by at least a committee of the governing body;

(F) Ensuring an agency's continuous compliance with Missouri law and applicable licensing rules;

(G) Ensuring an agency's continuous compliance with all applicable federal, state or local laws or regulations governing the operation of the agency;

(H) Ensuring that an agency's standards of practice shall be professional, ethical and responsive to client needs;

(I) Appointing the executive director and delegating responsibility to the director to administer the agency in all of its activities, functions and services;

(J) Performing and retaining a written evaluation of the executive director on an annual basis;

(K) Providing the division a written statement which sets forth the kind and extent of authority delegated to the executive director;

(L) Ensuring that all facilities are maintained, staffed and equipped to implement the agency's program effectively;

(M) Making available for review by the division the written policies and procedures of the agency, and evaluating the policies and procedures biennially to determine that the interests of children and families are being served;

(N) Meeting with division staff when requested; and

(O) Providing written notification to the division within five (5) working days when there is a change of executive directors, board president or the organizational structure of the agency.

(3) Financial Management.

(A) The governing body shall approve an annual budget which shall be on file at the agency and submitted to the licensing unit.

(B) The agency shall be audited annually by an independent certified public accountant and a copy shall be submitted to the division.


13 CSR 40-71.045 Personnel

PURPOSE: This rule sets forth the requirements for child abuse/neglect checks, medical examinations, personnel records, job descriptions and staff orientation and training.

(1) General Requirements.

(A) The agency shall have a written statement of personnel practices which are approved by the governing body and provided to all staff at the time of employment.

(B) The agency shall evaluate and investigate application information carefully to determine whether employment of an applicant is in the best interests of the children in care.

(C) The agency shall require that each employee secure and provide to the agency a Criminal Records Check from a state or local law enforcement agency.

(D) Prior to the employment of any person for a position requiring credit hours, a degree, or both, from an accredited college or university, a resume and an official college transcript, or a copy of the diploma, shall be on file at the agency.

(E) An agency shall require the names of at least three (3) persons for each staff person who are unrelated to the staff member, who can provide character references: employer references for each staff person from all previous employers within the last five (5) years and a history of any previous employment in child care settings. All references shall be documented by the agency with letters or verbal contacts, which would adversely affect their ability to care for children or pose a threat to children.

(F) The date of employment, date of separation:

(G) Verification of employer references for the past five (5) years and a history of any previous employment in child care settings;

(H) A copy of the job description signed by the employee;

(I) Reports of initial and subsequent physical examinations;

(J) Results of checks of the Child Abuse and Neglect CRU;

(K) The date of employment, date of separation, reason(s) for separation;

(L) Copies of an initial six (6) months' performance evaluation and each subsequent annual evaluation; and

(M) Results of the Criminal Records Check.
(3) Job Descriptions. An agency shall establish a written job description for each position, which shall be made available to staff at the time of employment. Each description shall describe the duties and responsibilities of the position; address supervision, required knowledge, skills and abilities, minimum experience, educational requirements; and shall include examples of work performed.

(6) Staff Orientation. Immediately before or following appointment, a staff member shall be oriented to the agency’s programs, practices and the duties and expectations of his/her position. The orientation program shall include, but not be limited to:

(A) Agency philosophy and history;
(B) Agency policies;
(C) Agency staff roles;
(D) The family’s role in the child’s care and the worker’s role and responsibilities in relation to the family;
(E) Complete description of the agency’s program model;
(F) Health and safety procedures, including the use of universal health care precautions;
(G) Crisis intervention procedures;
(H) Recordkeeping requirements;
(I) Cultural diversity;
(J) Separation and attachment issues;
(K) Confidentiality;
(L) Substance abuse;
(M) Recognition of suicidal tendencies and appropriate intervention;
(N) The procedure for identifying and reporting child abuse or neglect, or both, in accordance with sections 210.110-210.165, RSMo; and
(O) Agency recreation program philosophy, policy, procedures, rules and expectations.

(7) Staff Training.

(A) An agency shall establish and submit to the licensing unit an annual written plan for at least forty (40) hours of training each year for the executive director, child care staff, professional staff, and recreation and activity staff. All training must be documented with the dates, location, the subject and the name of the person(s) who conducted the training. The training may include, but not be limited to, short-term courses, seminars, institutes, workshops and in-service training provided on-site by qualified professionals.

(B) The training plan shall include, but not be limited to:
1. Developmental needs of children;
2. Child management techniques;
3. Basic group dynamics;
4. Appropriate discipline, crisis intervention, de-escalation techniques and behavior management techniques;
5. The direct care and professional staff roles in the facility;
6. Interpersonal communication;
7. Proper, safe methods and techniques of restraint;
8. First aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training; and
9. Suicide prevention.

13 CSR 40-71.050 Staff Qualifications and Requirements

PURPOSE: This rule sets forth the requirements for personnel, practices, including staff qualifications, staff/child ratios, staff training and nonpaid staff.

(1) Employee Qualifications. The agency shall employ staff who are qualified by education, training and experience for their assigned responsibilities. A current employee who has qualified for a position under the previous rule and is serving in that position shall be exempt from meeting any increased requirements defined by these rules.

(2) Administrative and Supervisory Personnel.

(A) The agency shall employ staff to perform administrative, supervisory, service and direct care functions which may be combined only upon the approval of the division.

(B) When nondirect care functions have been approved by the division and are combined, the staff member shall meet the requirements for each function.

(C) The administrator shall be at least twenty-five (25) years of age and shall have one (1) of the following:
1. A master’s degree in social work or a human service area of study from an accredited school; or
2. A bachelor’s degree in social work or a human service area of study from an accredited school and four (4) years’ experience in the management or supervision of child care personnel and programs; or
3. If the administrator is responsible only for personnel, fiscal management and physical facilities, and is not responsible for the programs and services of the institution, the institution may employ an administrator who has a bachelor’s degree from an accredited school and two (2) years’ experience in child care services. However, in this case, the agency shall employ a program director who meets the qualifications set forth in 13 CSR 40-71.070(2)(C).1.

(D) When the position of administrator is vacated, the governing body immediately shall designate a qualified person to act as administrator and shall notify the licensing unit.

(E) The administrator shall designate in writing a qualified staff to be in charge when s/he is absent.

(F) The program director shall have one (1) of the following:
1. A master’s degree in social work or a human service area of study from an accredited school; or
2. A bachelor’s degree in social work or a human service area of study from an accredited school plus two (2) years’ experience in child care services.

(3) Professional Personnel.

(A) An agency shall obtain any professional services required for the implementation of the individual service plan of a child when these services are not available from staff.

(B) Professional staff who perform case work or group work tasks, counseling with children and their families, therapeutic services, or planning of services for children and their families, shall have a master’s degree in social work, psychology, counseling or a closely related clinical field from an accredited college. Staff may have a bachelor’s degree in social work, psychology, counseling or a related area of study from an accredited school if s/he is under the direct supervision of a person with a master’s degree in social work, psychology, recreation and expressive therapies, counseling or a closely related clinical field.

(C) Full- or part-time professional staff including psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, counselors, physicians, teachers and nurses, shall meet the licensing or certification requirements of their profession in Missouri.
The agency shall have at least one professional staff for every twenty (20) children in care.

(E) The agency shall designate a supervisor for professional staff when six (6) or more staff are employed. The supervisor shall have at least two (2) years' clinical experience.

(4) Direct Care Staff/Staff/Child Ratios.

(A) Direct care staff shall be responsible, mature individuals of reputable character who exercise sound judgment and display the capacity to provide good care for children.

(B) Direct care staff shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and shall have at least a high school diploma or general educational development (GED) certificate. A staffing plan shall be developed which allows for consistency of care through communication between different shifts of care regarding activities or special needs or problems of children.

(C) The ratio of direct care staff to children shall be dependent on the needs of the children, but the staff/child ratio during waking hours shall not be less than one to four (1:4) for infants and children through six (6) years of age.

(D) The staff/child ratio during waking hours shall not be less than one to six (1:6) for children six (6) to eight (8) years of age.

(E) The staff/child ratio during waking hours shall not be less than one to ten (1:10) for children eight (8) years of age and over.

(F) For children over six (6) years of age, the staff/child ratios during sleeping hours, for staff on duty but asleep, shall not be less than one to twelve (1:12). If staff on duty remain awake, a ratio of not less than one to twenty (1:20) shall be required.

(G) Staff in agencies serving children ages birth through six (6) years shall be awake during sleeping hours with a ratio of not less than one to six (1:6).

(H) Any children of live-in staff shall be included in the required staff/child ratios.

(I) The division may require a higher staff/child ratio if on-site review indicates a need for more supervision to maintain control, discipline and adequate care, or the division may approve a lower staff/child ratio if on-site review indicates adequate care, discipline and other support staff to perform housekeeping and maintenance functions.

(J) Staff/child ratios shall be maintained at all group off-grounds activities.

(K) Agencies employing twelve (12) or more direct care staff shall designate staff to be primarily responsible for supervising, evaluating and monitoring the daily work and progress of the direct care workers who shall have one (1) of the following:

1. A bachelor’s degree and one (1) year of work experience in a residential care agency;

2. Two (2) years’ college and two (2) years’ work experience in a residential care agency;

3. A high school diploma and four (4) years’ work experience in a residential care agency.

(5) Relief Staff. The agency shall provide planned relief for direct care staff and shall have qualified relief staff to substitute for direct care staff for sick leave, vacation, relief time and other absences.

(6) Students. Graduate or undergraduate students in a field work placement at the agency shall be subject to the general personnel policies of the agency, but shall not be considered or used as substitutes for employed staff.

(7) Educational Staff. An agency operating an on-grounds school shall demonstrate compliance with the Missouri State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education certification requirements.

(8) Recreational and Activity Staff.

(A) The administrator shall develop and coordinate the agency’s recreational and activity programs using staff qualified by experience, education or training, or both, or certified to carry out the program outlined in the recreation plan.

(B) An agency shall assign recreational staff on basis of experience in working with groups of children whose recreational needs and interests vary.

(9) Clerical Staff. Clerical staff shall be employed as needed for general clerical duties such as typing, recordkeeping, bookkeeping and filing. Clerical staff shall not supervise or assist in the care of children without being qualified according to these rules.

(10) Other Staff. An agency shall employ, as needed, cooks, kitchen helpers, maintenance, custodial and other support staff to perform housekeeping and maintenance functions.

(11) Volunteers. If an agency uses volunteers as part of its program of services, the agency shall have written policies which include:

(A) A clear description of the agency's purposes and goals;

(B) A clear job description for the director of volunteers and for each category of volunteers;

(C) A clear differentiation of functions and activities appropriate for paid staff members and volunteers in policy-making, advocacy, administrative and direct service roles;

(D) A process for screening and selecting volunteers, who have direct contact with children similar to that used for paid staff members;

(E) A defined line of supervision, with clear written expectations of the supervisor and the volunteers;

(F) Orientation, preservice and in-service training activities in the volunteers' specified roles;

(G) Procedures for monitoring and evaluating volunteer activities and contributions;

(H) Procedures for observing professional ethics and confidentiality;

(I) Procedures for reimbursement of travel and other expenses; and

(J) Procedures for handling conflicts between paid staff members and volunteers.

(12) Visiting Resources.

(A) An agency shall have written policies for the use of visiting resources which are approved by the division. The policies shall be made available to a child's parent(s), guardian or legal custodian and to the child when appropriate.

(B) The agency shall request from the division a check of the Child Abuse and Neglect Central Registry Unit (CRU) to determine whether a child abuse or neglect report, or both, has been received on all visiting resources. Results of the CRU checks shall be on file at the agency.


13 CSR 40-71.060 Social Services Program

PURPOSE: This rule sets forth the policies and procedure requirements for intake and admission, discharge and social services.

(1) Intake and Admission.

(A) Intake Policies.