



Series: 400: Placement

Policy Name: **Waivers for Licensed Family Foster Homes and Age Differentials for Child-caring Agencies**

Policy Number: 402

Origination Date: 11/1/2013 **Revision Date:** 9/1/2023

Regulation: 65C-45.015
65C-46.012
CFOP 170-11
39.523 F.S.

Policy

CCKids' Placement Specialists, along with contracted child placing agencies, are responsible for coordinating the placement of children in licensed out of home care. The least restrictive, most family-like setting that will meet the needs of the child is always be considered first. Licensed capacity of family foster homes and facilities will be thoroughly assessed prior to considering a waiver so that the needs of children residing in that placement are met.

Procedure

Over-Capacity Placement Waiver Requests Licensed Family Foster Home

The total number of children placed in a home shall not exceed the placement capacity as outlined in Section 409.175(3)(b), F.S. A waiver must be approved when placement in a licensed family foster home will exceed:

- The total number of dependent children is six or more.
- The total number of children, including both dependent child and the family's own children, is eight or more.
- There will be more than two infants under 24 months of age, including the caregiver's own children.

Over-capacity placement waiver requests may be considered under the following circumstances to allow:

- A parenting youth in foster care to remain with his or her child
- Siblings to remain together
- A child with an established meaningful relationship with the family to remain with the family
- A family with special training or skills to provide care to a child who has a severe disability

Over-Capacity Placement Assessments & Approvals

Approval of over-capacity placement waivers must occur prior to placing any children in a home over the placement capacity as outlined above.



1. The licensing specialist with the contract child placing agency will complete the assessment of each child in the home and of the child(ren) being placed in the home using the Over-Capacity Assessment module FSFN.
 - a. The following factor will be considered in the assessment:
 - i. The foster parent's ability to accommodate additional children being placed into the home, including sleeping arrangements, space, ability to transport and care sets, if applicable.
 - ii. Any physical, developmental, emotional, mental, behavioral health needs of the children residing in the home as well as those that may be placed into the home.
 - iii. Any child placement agreements for children in the home, including any behavior modification plans that have been implemented.
 - iv. The complexities of case of the children in the home and the caregiver's ability to ensure appropriate access to services for the children.
 - v. Previous caregiving experience.
 - b. Additional assessment considerations include:
 - i. Any prior concerns due to investigation of foster care referrals that resulted in placement restrictions
 - ii. If MDT staffing occurred and is the team in agreement with this placement
 - iii. Any additional details regarding how care givers can manage the children (child care, stay-at-home-parent, other supports, etc.)
 - iv. Attempts to place children in a setting that does not require a waiver
2. Completed assessments will be forwarded to the CCKids Placement Supervisor, or designee, for review.
3. CCKids Placement Supervisor, or designee, will forward completed assessments & requests the CCKids CEO, or executive designee, for review, approval & signature and then forward signed executive approval, comprehensive placement assessments for each child being presented for placement and request to the DCF Regional Licensing Manager for approval.
4. DCF Regional Licensing Manager will communicate approval to CCKids Placement Supervisor, or designee, verbally or in writing via email.
 - a. Any requests for additional information shall be passed through the CCKids Placement Supervisor or designee requesting approval.
 - b. If verbal approval is given, final written approval will be issues from DCF to the CCKids Placement Supervisor, or designee, the next business day and will be shared with child placing agency/licensing specialist upon receipt.
 - c. Initial assessment approval shall not exceed 30 days.
 - d. Subsequent approvals for the same child(ren) may be approved for 90-day extensions.
5. CCKids Placement Supervisor will communicate approval to contracted licensing specialist who will be responsible for uploading approved wavier into FSFN within 24 hours of placement.
6. Approvals are child-specific and automatically expire when the number of children falls



below the maximum placement capacity. In instances the waiver is for more than two infants under 24 months of age, the waiver automatically expires when one of the infants ages to 24 months (2 years old).

Age Differential Waivers

Children under the age of 10, or the age of enrollment in fifth grade, may be admitted to a child-caring agency (emergency shelter, group home, etc.) under the following situations:

- Recommended level of placement for youth per the Comprehensive Placement Assessment and MDT
- When the child meets eligibility requirement for admission into a child-caring agency.

Age differential does not apply for children under the age of 10 when it is to prevent separation of a parenting young adult and child when placement in a maternity home is not feasible.

1. CCKids Placement Specialist will complete the *Age Differential Waiver Request for Group Care* (CF-FSP 5447, located on DCF Forms Page) which will indicate reasons for the waiver as well as summarize the recommendation for placement, including efforts for placement in a less restrictive setting.
2. CCKids Placement Specialist will forward to CCKids Placement Supervisor, or designee, for approval.
3. CCKids Placement Specialist will forward signed approved waiver with a copy of the comprehensive placement assessment (see policy 401) and if applicable, a child placement agreement to the child-caring agency at the time of placement and upload it into FSFN.

Approved:

DocuSigned by:

Carol Deloach

665999492311426...

Carol Deloach, CEO