

WSR 24-15-091
PROPOSED RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
[Filed July 19, 2024, 2:49 p.m.]

Original Notice.

Preproposal statement of inquiry was filed as WSR 24-08-074.

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: WAC 110-50-0420
Definitions for foster care rate assessment (FCRA), 110-80-0030 What definitions apply to the department's adoption support program?, 110-145-1305 What definitions do I need to know to understand this chapter?, 110-148-1305 What definitions do I need to know to understand this chapter?, 110-148-1365 What are the personal requirements for foster parents?, 110-148-1366 What are the qualifications to provide PTFC services?, 110-148-1367 What happens if I am applying to provide PTFC services and I do not have sufficient income?, 110-148-1368 What happens if I stop providing PTFC services?, and 110-148-1370 What kinds of assessments are included in the licensing process?

Hearing Location(s): On August 26, 2024, telephonic. Comments can be made by calling 360-972-5385 and leaving a voicemail that includes the comment, emailing the rules coordinator, or mailing comments to the department of children, youth, and families' (DCYF) physical mailing address. All comments must be received by the date and time listed below.

Date of Intended Adoption: August 27, 2024.

Submit Written Comments to: DCYF rules coordinator, email dcyf.rulescoordinator@dcyf.wa.gov, <https://dcyf.wa.gov/practice/policy-laws-rules/rule-making/participate/online>, beginning July 25, 2024, 8:00 a.m., by August 27, 2024, 11:59 p.m.

Assistance for Persons with Disabilities: Contact DCYF rules coordinator, phone 360-522-3691, email dcyf.rulescoordinator@dcyf.wa.gov, by August 20, 2024.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: DCYF is required to develop a contract and a new type of foster home for professional therapeutic foster care according to the D.S. Settlement Agreement. The intent of the agreement is to remove this barrier in licensing rules and add new language describing eligibility and licensing requirements for professional therapeutic foster parents. In addition, revisions are being made to allow foster care payments to be the sole income of a licensed foster family home. The licensing division must update sections and add new sections to chapter 110-148 WAC to satisfy this legal requirement as well as to chapters 110-50, 110-80, and 110-145 WAC for definition revisions.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: See purpose.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 34.05.220, 43.216.020, and 43.216.065.

Statute Being Implemented: RCW 34.05.220, 43.216.020, and 43.216.065.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: DCYF, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting: Joelle Leisure, 1949 South State Street, Tacoma, WA 98405, 253-533-0045; Implementation and Enforcement: DCYF, statewide.

A school district fiscal impact statement is not required under RCW 28A.305.135.

A cost-benefit analysis is not required under RCW 34.05.328. DCYF is not among the agencies listed as required to comply with RCW 34.05.328 (5) [(a)] (i).

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act because the proposal:

Is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(4).

Scope of exemption for rule proposal:

Is fully exempt.

July 19, 2024
Brenda Villarreal
Rules Coordinator

OTS-5625.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 23-24-040, filed 11/30/23, effective 12/31/23)

WAC 110-50-0420 Definitions for foster care rate assessment (FCRA). The following definitions apply to foster care rate assessments (FCRA):

"Behavior rehabilitation services" or **"BRS"** means a temporary wrap around support and treatment program for youth with extreme, high level service needs, used to safely stabilize them and assist them in achieving a permanent plan or less intensive service.

"Child placing agency (~~"or"CPA~~) (CPA)" means an agency or tribe licensed to place children (~~(or youth)~~) for foster care or adoption and may be contracted by the department to provide professional therapeutic foster care services.

"Department" or **"DCYF"** means the department of children, youth, and families.

"Foster care" means the placement of children or youth by DCYF or licensed child placing agencies in homes or facilities licensed or certified pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW or in homes or facilities that are not required to be licensed pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW.

"Foster home" or **"foster family home"** means individuals licensed to regularly provide a 24-hour care in their home to children or youth.

"Licensed health care provider" means a medical doctor (MD), doctor of osteopathy (DO), doctor of naturopathy (ND), physician's assistant (PA), or an advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP).

"Licensing division" or **"LD"** means the division of the department of children, youth, and families that licenses and monitors foster homes, child placing agencies, and licensed group care facilities under the authority of chapter 74.15 RCW.

"Relatives" means the same as defined in RCW 13.36.020(5), described in RCW 74.15.020(2), or caregivers of Indian children or youth who are defined by tribal code or custom as relatives or extended family.

"Suitable persons" means nonrelatives with whom the child or youth, or the child's or youth's family, has a preexisting relation-

ship; who has completed all required criminal history background checks and otherwise appears to be suitable and competent to provide care for the child or youth, and with whom they have been placed pursuant to RCW 13.34.130.

OTS-5626.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-04-019, filed 1/27/20, effective 2/27/20)

WAC 110-80-0030 What definitions apply to the adoption support program? The following definitions apply to this chapter:

"Adoption" means the granting of an adoption decree consistent with chapter 26.33 RCW.

"Adoption support agreement" means a written contract between the adoptive parents and the department that identifies the specific benefits available to the adoptive parents and other terms and conditions of the agreement.

"Adoption support cash payment" means negotiated monthly cash payments paid pursuant to an adoption support agreement between the adoptive parents and the department.

"Applicant" means a person or couple applying for adoption support on behalf of a child the person or couple plans to adopt.

"Child placing agency (CPA)" means ~~((a private nonprofit))~~ an agency or tribe licensed ((by the department under chapter 74.15 RCW)) to place children for ((adoption or)) foster care or adoption and may be contracted by the department to provide professional therapeutic foster care services.

"Department" means the department of children, youth, and families.

"Extenuating circumstances" means a finding by an administrative law judge or a review judge that one or more qualifying conditions or events occurred that erroneously prevented an otherwise eligible child from being placed on the adoption support program prior to adoption.

"Medical services" means services covered by medicaid and administered by the health care authority.

"Negotiation" means the process of working toward an agreement between the department and the adoptive parent on the terms of the adoption support agreement.

"Nonrecurring costs" means reasonable, necessary, and direct expenses related to the cost of finalizing the adoption of a special needs child.

"Placing agency" means the public or private nonprofit agency that has the legal authority to place the child for adoption.

"Program" means the department's adoption support program.

"Reconsideration" means the limited state-funded support that may be available to an eligible child whose adoption was finalized without a valid adoption support agreement in place.

"Resident state" (for purposes of the child's medicaid eligibility) means the state in which the child physically resides. In some cases this may be different from the state of the parent's legal residence.

OTS-5627.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-11-091, filed 5/18/22, effective 6/18/22)

WAC 110-145-1305 What definitions do I need to know to understand this chapter? The following words and terms are for the purpose of this chapter and are important to understand these requirements:

"Abuse or neglect" means the injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child as defined in RCW 26.44.020.

"Adult" means a person 18 years old or older, not in the care of the department.

"Agency" is defined in RCW 74.15.020(1).

"Asexual" means the lack of a sexual attraction or desire for other individuals.

"Assessment" means the appraisal or evaluation of a child's physical, mental, social and emotional condition.

"Bisexual" means individuals who have an emotional or physical attraction to individuals of the same and different genders.

"Business hours" means hours during the day in which state business is commonly conducted. Typically, the hours between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays are considered to be standard hours of operation.

"Capacity" means the age range and maximum number of children on your current license.

"Care provider" means any person who is licensed or authorized to provide care for children and cleared to have unsupervised access to children under the authority of a license.

"Case manager" means a facility employee who coordinates the planning efforts of all the persons working on behalf of a child.

"Case plan" means a written document adhered to and followed by a foster child's parents, foster parents, the department, and all other caregivers. A case plan may include, but is not limited to:

(a) A description of the type of home or facility in which a child is to be placed, including a discussion of the safety and appropriateness of the placement and how the department plans to carry out the voluntary placement agreement entered into or judicial determination made with respect to the child;

(b) A plan for assuring that the child receives safe and proper care and that services are provided to the child, parents or guardians, and foster parents in order to improve the conditions in the parents' home, facilitate returning the child to their own home or the permanent placement of the child, and address the needs of the child while in foster care, including a discussion of the appropriateness of the services that have been provided to the child under the plan;

(c) The health and education records of the child, including the most recent information available regarding:

(i) The names and addresses of the child's health and educational providers;

(ii) The child's grade level performance;

(iii) The child's school records;

(iv) A record of the child's immunizations;

(v) The child's known medical conditions;

(vi) The child's medications; and

(vii) Any other relevant health and education information concerning the child determined to be appropriate by the department;

(d) Relevant professional assessments of the child;
 (e) Court orders concerning the child; and
 (f) Any other relevant plan, assessment, knowledge, material, or information concerning the child determined to be appropriate by the department.

"Chapter" means chapter 110-145 WAC.

"Child," "children," or "youth" for this chapter, means a person who is one of the following:

- (a) Under 18 years old;
- (b) Up to 21 years of age and enrolled in services through the department of social and health services developmental disabilities administration (DDA) the day prior to their 18th birthday and pursuing either a high school or equivalency course of study, such as a GED or HSEC, or vocational program;
- (c) Up to 21 years of age and participates in the extended foster care program;
- (d) Up to 21 years of age with intellectual and developmental disabilities;
- (e) Up to 25 years of age and under the custody of juvenile rehabilitation.

"Child placing agency (CPA)" means an agency or tribe licensed to place children for ((temporary care, continued care,)) foster care or adoption and may be contracted by the department to provide professional therapeutic foster care services.

"Compliance agreement" means a written improvement plan to address the changes needed to meet licensing requirements.

"CW" means the division of child welfare within DCYF. CW provides case management to children and families involved in the child welfare system.

"Day treatment" is a specialized service that provides educational and therapeutic group experiences for emotionally disturbed children.

"DDA" means the developmental disabilities administration in the department of social and health services. DDA provides services and case management to children and adults who meet the eligibility criteria.

"Deescalation" means strategies used to defuse a volatile situation, to assist a child to regain behavior control, and to avoid a physical restraint or other behavioral intervention.

"Department" means the department of children, youth, and families (DCYF).

"Developmental disability" is a disability as defined in RCW 71A.10.020.

"Direct care" means direct, hands-on personal care and supervision to group care children.

"DOH" means the department of health.

"Electronic monitoring" means video or audio monitoring or recording used to watch or listen to children as a way to monitor their behavior.

"Emergency respite center (ERC)" means a licensed facility that may be commonly known as a crisis nursery, which provides emergency or crisis care for nondependent children birth through 17 years for up to 72 hours to prevent child abuse or neglect per RCW 74.15.020(d). ERCs may choose to be open up to 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Facilities may also provide family assessment, family support services, and referrals to community services.

"FBI" means the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"Full-time" as used throughout this chapter when describing work experience means a minimum of 1,664 work hours in a calendar year or the equivalent of 32 work hours per week.

"Gay" means a sexual orientation to describe individuals who are emotionally or physically attracted to someone of the same gender. Gay is sometimes an umbrella term for the LGBTQIA+ community.

"Gender" or "gender identity" means an individual's inner sense of being a female, male, a blend of both or neither, or another gender. This may or may not correspond with an individual's sex assigned at birth.

"Gender expression" means individuals' outward communication of their gender through behavior or appearance. This may or may not conform to their sex assigned at birth or socially defined behaviors and characteristics typically associated with being either masculine or feminine.

"Gender fluid" means individuals whose gender identities are flexible, not permanent.

"Group care" is a general term for a licensed facility that is maintained and operated for a group of children on a 24-hour basis to provide a safe and healthy living environment that meets the developmental needs of the children in care, per RCW 74.15.020 (1)(f).

"Group home" is a specific license for residential care that provides care and supervision for children.

"Group receiving center" means a licensed facility that provides the basic needs of food, shelter, and supervision for children placed by the department, generally for 30 or fewer days.

"Guardian" has the same meaning in this chapter as defined in RCW 26.33.020(11).

"Guns or weapons" means any device intended to shoot projectiles under pressure or that can be used to attack. These include, but are not limited to, BB guns, pellet guns, air rifles, stun guns, antique guns, handguns, rifles, shotguns, and archery equipment.

"Health care staff" means anyone providing qualified medical consultation to your staff or medical care to the children in your care.

"Hearing" means the administrative review process conducted by an administrative law judge.

"I, my, you, and your" refers to an applicant for a license issued under this chapter, and to any party holding a license under this chapter.

"Infant" means a child less than 12 months of age.

"Intellectual and developmental disability" means children with deficits in general mental abilities and impairment in everyday adaptive functioning.

"Interim facility" means an overnight youth shelter, emergency respite center or a resource and assessment center.

"Intersex" is an umbrella term used to describe a wide range of natural bodily variations when the body is born with a combination of chromosomes, internal organs, or external genitalia that do not develop as expected.

"Lesbian" means females or women who have an emotional or physical attraction for other females or women.

"LGBTQIA+" means lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, and asexual. The "+" represents identities not specifically named in the LGBTQIA acronym, e.g., pansexual, gender nonbinary, and Two-Spirit.

"License" means a permit issued by us that your facility meets the licensing standards established in this chapter.

"Licensed health care provider" means an MD (medical doctor), DO (doctor of osteopathy), ND (doctor of naturopathy), PA (physician's assistant), or an ARNP (advanced registered nurse practitioner).

"Licensing division (LD)" means the division within DCYF that licenses and monitors foster homes, child placing agencies, and licensed group care facilities.

"Licensing provider portal" means the internet connected provider application system used by the department and agencies to securely store digital employment and licensing documents and data.

"Local fire authority" means your local fire inspection authority having jurisdiction in the area where your facility is located.

"Maternity service" as defined in RCW 74.15.020. These are also referred to as pregnant and parenting youth programs.

"Medically fragile" means the condition of a child who requires the availability of 24-hour skilled care from a health care professional or specially trained staff or volunteers in a group care setting. These conditions may be present all the time or frequently occurring. If the technology, support, and services being received by the medically fragile children are interrupted or denied, the child may, without immediate health care intervention, experience death.

"Missing child" means any child less than 18 years of age in licensed care or under the care, custody, and authority of DCYF and the child's whereabouts are unknown, the child has left care without the permission of the child's caregiver or DCYF, or both. This does not include children in a dependency guardianship.

"Multidisciplinary teams (MDT)" means groups formed to assist children who are considered at-risk children in need of services, and their parents.

"Negative action" means a court order, court judgment, or adverse action taken by an agency, in any state, federal, local, tribal, or foreign jurisdiction, that results in a finding against the applicant reasonably related to the individual's suitability, and competence to care for or have unsupervised access to children in out-of-home care. This may include, but is not limited to:

- (a) A decision issued by an administrative law judge;
- (b) A final determination, decision, or finding made by an agency following an investigation;
- (c) An adverse licensing action, including termination, revocation, or denial of a license or certification, or if there is a pending adverse action, the voluntary surrender of a license, certification, or contract in lieu of an adverse action;
- (d) A revocation, denial, or restriction placed on any professional license; or
- (e) A final decision of a disciplinary board.

"Nonambulatory" means not able to walk or exit to safety without the physical assistance of another individual.

"Nonbinary" is a term of self-identification for individuals who do not identify within the limited and binary terms that have described gender identity, e.g., female and male. Nonbinary is also an umbrella term for many identities such as gender expansive, gender fluid, and genderqueer.

"Out-of-home placement" means a child's placement in a home or facility other than the child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian.

"Overnight youth shelter" means a licensed nonprofit agency that provides overnight shelter to homeless or runaway youth in need of emergency sleeping arrangements.

"Parent" has the same meaning in this chapter as defined in RCW 26.26A.010(15).

"Probationary license" means a license issued as part of a corrective action to an individual or agency that has previously been issued a full license but is out of compliance with minimum licensing requirements and has entered into an agreement aimed at correcting deficiencies.

"Property or premises" means a facility's buildings and adjoining grounds that are managed by a person or agency in charge.

"Psychotropic medication" means a type of medicine that is prescribed to affect or alter thought processes, mood, sleep, or behavior. These include antipsychotic, antidepressant, and anti-anxiety medications.

"Queer" is a term used to express LGBTQIA+ identities and orientations. The term is sometimes used as an umbrella term for all LGBTQIA+ individuals.

"Questioning" means individuals who are exploring their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression at any age.

"Relative" means a person who is related to a child under RCW 74.15.020.

"Resource and assessment center" means an agency that provides short-term emergency and crisis care for a period up to 72 hours, (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) to children who have been removed from their parent's or guardian's care by child protective services or law enforcement.

"Secure crisis residential center" means a licensed facility open 24 hours a day, seven days a week that provides temporary residential placement, assessment and services in a secure facility to prevent youth from leaving the facility without permission, per RCW 13.32A.030(15).

"Semi-secure crisis residential center" means a licensed facility open 24 hours a day, seven days a week that provides temporary residential placement, assessment and services for runaway youth and youth in conflict with their family or in need of emergency placement.

"Sexual orientation" means an individual's emotional or physical attraction to other individuals.

"SOGIE" is an acronym for sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression which are distinct identifiers everyone has. LGBTQIA+ is a subdistinction within SOGIE self-identifiers. SOGIE includes LGBTQIA+ as well as heterosexual, cisgender, and nonquestioning individuals.

"Staff" or "staff member" means a person who provides services for your facility and is paid by your facility. The definition of staff member includes paid interns.

"Staffed residential home" means a licensed facility that provides 24-hour care to six or fewer children who require more supervision than can be provided in a foster home.

"Transgender" is an umbrella term for individuals whose gender identity or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Gender-affirming medical care is not a prerequisite to identify as transgender. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation.

"Treatment plan" means individual plans that identify the service needs of the child, including the child's parent or guardian, and identifies the treatment goals and strategies for achieving those goals.

"Two-Spirit" means a modern, pan-indigenous, umbrella term used by some indigenous North Americans to describe Native people in their communities who fulfill a traditional third-gender or other gender-variant, ceremonial, and social role in their cultures. Being Two-Spirit does not imply any specific sexual orientation.

"Volunteer" means a person who provides services for your facility without compensation.

"Washington state patrol fire protection bureau (WSP/FPB)" means the state fire marshal.

"We, our, and us" refers to DCYF and its staff.

"Young child" refers to a child age 12 months through eight years old.

OTS-5628.2

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-11-091, filed 5/18/22, effective 6/18/22)

WAC 110-148-1305 What definitions do I need to know to understand this chapter? The following definitions are for the purpose of this chapter and are important to understanding these requirements:

"Abuse or neglect" means the injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child as defined in RCW 26.44.020.

"Adult" means a person 18 years of age and older, not in the care of the department.

"Agency" is defined in RCW 74.15.020(1).

"Asexual" means the lack of a sexual attraction or desire for other individuals.

"Bisexual" means individuals who have an emotional or physical attraction to individuals of the same and different genders.

"Capacity" means the age range and maximum number of children on your current license.

"Care provider" means any person who is licensed or authorized to provide care for children, and cleared to have unsupervised access to children under the authority of a license.

"Case manager" means the private agency employee who coordinates the planning efforts of all the persons working on behalf of a child.

"Case plan" means a written document adhered to and followed by a foster child's parent or parents, foster parent or parents, the department, and all other caregivers. A case plan may include, but is not limited to:

(a) A description of the type of home or facility in which a child is to be placed, including a discussion of the safety and appropriateness of the placement and how the department plans to carry out the voluntary placement agreement entered into or judicial determination made with respect to the child;

(b) A plan for assuring that the child receives safe and proper care and that services are provided to the parents, child, and foster parents in order to improve the conditions in the parents' home, facilitate return of the child to their own safe home or the permanent placement of the child, and address the needs of the child while in

foster care, including a discussion of the appropriateness of the services that have been provided to the child under the plan;

(c) The health and education records of the child, including the most recent information available regarding:

(i) The names and addresses of the child's health and educational providers;

(ii) The child's grade level performance;

(iii) The child's school record;

(iv) A record of the child's immunizations;

(v) The child's known medical conditions;

(vi) The child's medications; and

(vii) Any other relevant health and education information concerning the child determined to be appropriate by the department;

(d) Relevant professional assessments of the child;

(e) Court orders concerning the child; and

(f) Any other relevant plan, assessment, knowledge, material, or information concerning the child determined to be appropriate by the department.

"Caseworker" means the primary agency worker assigned to the child through DCYF or another government agency.

"Certification" means either:

(a) Our review of whether you meet the licensing requirements, even though you do not need to be licensed; or

(b) A licensed child placing agency (CPA) representing that a foster home being supervised by that CPA meets licensing requirements. The final decision for licensing is the responsibility of DCYF.

"Chapter" means chapter 110-148 WAC.

"Child," "children," or "youth" for this chapter, means a person who is one of the following:

(a) Under 18 years of age;

(b) Up to 21 years of age and enrolled in services through department of social and health services, developmental disabilities administration (DDA) the day prior to his or her 18th birthday and pursuing either a high school or equivalency course of study (GED/HSEC), or vocational program;

(c) Up to 21 years of age and participates in the extended foster care program;

(d) Up to 21 years of age with intellectual and developmental disabilities;

(e) Up to 25 years of age and under the custody of juvenile rehabilitation.

"Child placing agency (CPA)" means an agency or tribe licensed to place children for foster care or adoption and may be contracted by the department to provide professional therapeutic foster care (PTFC) services.

"Child welfare" or "CW" means the division of child welfare within DCYF. CW provides case management to children and families involved in the child welfare system.

"Compliance agreement" means a written improvement plan to address the changes needed to meet licensing requirements.

"DDA" means the department of social and health services, developmental disabilities administration.

"Department (~~" or "DCYF" means the department~~) of children, youth, and families (DCYF)" or "department" means the Washington state department of children, youth, and families.

"Developmental disability" is a disability as defined in RCW 71A.10.020.

"FBI" means the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"Foster home or foster family home" means a person(s) licensed to regularly provide 24-hour care in their home to children.

"Gay" means a sexual orientation to describe individuals who are emotionally or physically attracted to someone of the same gender. Gay is sometimes an umbrella term for the LGBTQIA+ community.

"Gender" or "gender identity" means an individual's inner sense of being a female, male, a blend of both or neither, or another gender. This may or may not correspond with an individual's sex assigned at birth.

"Gender expression" means individuals' outward communication of their gender through behavior or appearance. This may or may not conform to their sex assigned at birth or socially defined behaviors and characteristics typically associated with being either masculine or feminine.

"Gender fluid" means individuals whose gender identities are flexible, not permanent.

"Guardian" has the same meaning in this chapter as defined in RCW 26.33.020(11).

"Guns or weapons" means any device intended to shoot projectiles under pressure or that can be used to attack. These include but are not limited to BB guns, pellet guns, air rifles, stun guns, antique guns, handguns, rifles, shotguns and archery equipment.

"Hearing" means the administrative review process conducted by an administrative law judge.

"I, my, you, and your" refers to an applicant for a license issued under this chapter, and to any party holding a license under this chapter.

"Infant" means a child less than 12 months of age.

"Intellectual and developmental disability" means children with deficits in general mental abilities and impairment in everyday adaptive functioning.

"Intersex" is an umbrella term used to describe a wide range of natural bodily variations when the body is born with a combination of chromosomes, internal organs, or external genitalia that do not develop as expected.

"Lesbian" means females or women who have an emotional or physical attraction for other females or women.

"LGBTQIA+" means lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, and asexual. The "+" represents identities not specifically named in the LGBTQIA acronym, e.g., pansexual, gender nonbinary, and Two-Spirit.

"License" means a permit issued by us confirming that you and your home meet the licensing standards established in this chapter.

"Licensed health care provider" means a medical doctor (MD), doctor of osteopathy (DO), doctor of naturopathy (ND), physician's assistant (PA), or an advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP).

"Licensing division (LD)" means the division within DCYF that licenses and monitors foster homes, child placing agencies, and licensed group care facilities.

"Licensor" means either:

(a) A LD employee who recommends approvals for, or monitors licenses or certifications for facilities and agencies established under this chapter; or

(b) An employee of a CPA who certifies or monitors foster homes supervised by the CPA.

"Maternity services" as defined in RCW 74.15.020. These are also referred to as pregnant and parenting youth programs.

"Medically fragile" means the condition of a child who requires the availability of 24-hour skilled care from a health care professional or specially trained family or foster family member. These conditions may be present all the time or frequently occurring. If the technology, support, and services being received by the medically fragile children are interrupted or denied, the child may, without immediate health care intervention, experience death.

"Missing child" means any child less than 18 years of age in licensed care or under the care, custody, and authority of DCYF and the child's whereabouts are unknown or the child has left care without the permission of the child's caregiver or DCYF. This does not include children in dependency guardianship.

"Nonambulatory" means not able to walk or exit to safety without the physical assistance of another individual.

"Nonbinary" is a term of self-identification for individuals who do not identify within the limited and binary terms that have described gender identity, e.g., female and male. Nonbinary is also an umbrella term for many identities such as gender expansive, gender fluid, and genderqueer.

"Out-of-home placement" means a child's placement in a home or facility other than the home of a child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian.

"Parent" has the same meaning in this chapter as defined in RCW 26.26A.010(15).

"Probationary license" means a license issued as part of a corrective action to an individual or agency that has previously been issued a full license but is out of compliance with minimum licensing requirements and has entered into an agreement aimed at correcting deficiencies.

"Professional therapeutic foster care (PTFC)" means a foster home that is certified by a CPA to provide PTFC services.

"Property or premises" means your buildings and grounds adjacent to your residential property that are owned or managed by you.

"Psychotropic medication" means a type of medicine prescribed to affect or alter thought processes, mood, sleep, or behavior. These include anti-psychotic, anti-depressant, and anti-anxiety medications.

"Queer" is a term used to express LGBTQIA+ identities and orientations. The term is sometimes used as an umbrella term for all LGBTQIA+ individuals.

"Questioning" means individuals who are exploring their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression at any age.

"Relative" means a person who is related to a child as defined in RCW 74.15.020.

"Respite" means brief, temporary relief care provided by an in-home or out-of-home provider paid by the department. The respite provider fulfills some or all of the care provider responsibilities for a short time.

"Sexual orientation" means an individual's emotional or physical attraction to other individuals.

"SOGIE" is an acronym for sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression which are distinct identifiers everyone has. LGBTQIA+ is a subdistinction within SOGIE self-identifiers. SOGIE includes LGBTQIA+ as well as heterosexual, cisgender, and nonquestioning individuals.

"Transgender" is an umbrella term for individuals whose gender identity or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Gender-affirming medical care is not a prerequisite to identify as transgender. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation.

"Treatment plan" means individual plans that identify the service needs of the child, including the child's parent or guardian, and identifies the treatment goals and strategies for achieving those goals.

"Two-Spirit" means a modern, pan-indigenous umbrella term used by some indigenous North Americans to describe Native people in their communities who fulfill a traditional third-gender or other gender-variant, ceremonial, and social role in their cultures. Being Two-Spirit does not imply any specific sexual orientation.

"Washington state patrol fire protection bureau or WSP/FPB" means the state fire marshal.

"We, our, and us" refers to the department of children, youth, and families, including LD and CW staff.

"Young child" refers to a child age 12 months through eight years old.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-11-091, filed 5/18/22, effective 6/18/22)

WAC 110-148-1365 What are the personal requirements for foster parents? (1) You must be at least 21 years old to apply for a license.

(2) You must demonstrate you have:

(a) The understanding, ability, physical health, emotional stability, and personality suited to meet the physical, mental, emotional, cultural, and social needs of children under your care;

(b) Sufficient regular income to maintain your own family, without ~~((the))~~ foster care reimbursement ~~((made for the children in your care))~~ unless you are an approved PTFC home as outlined in WAC 110-148-1366; and

(c) ~~((To be able))~~ The ability to communicate with the child, the department, health care providers, and other service providers.

(3) You must ~~((adhere to, follow, and))~~ comply with the case plan for the children in your care.

(4) You ~~((may))~~ must not use drugs or alcohol, whether legal or illegal, in a manner that affects your ability to provide safe care to children.

(5) You and everyone residing on your premises or who you allow to have unsupervised access to children must demonstrate they ~~((have the ability to furnish))~~ can provide children with a nurturing, respectful, and supportive environment.

NEW SECTION

WAC 110-148-1366 What are the qualifications to provide PTFC services? (1) You must be a licensed foster parent through a CPA; and

(2) You must meet the requirements specified in the PTFC contract.

NEW SECTION

WAC 110-148-1367 What happens if I am applying to provide PTFC services and I do not have sufficient income? The department may issue you a license if you meet all other PTFC requirements but lack sufficient income to provide general foster care.

NEW SECTION

WAC 110-148-1368 What happens if I stop providing PTFC services? If you are approved as a PTFC home and stop providing PTFC services within the contracted time frame:

- (1) You must inform the CPA and the department; and
- (2) The department must:
 - (a) Place you in no referral status; and
 - (b) Not place any additional children in the home until you provide income verification that meets the requirements for general foster care in WAC 110-148-1365 (2) (b).

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-14-078, filed 6/29/18, effective 7/1/18)

WAC 110-148-1370 What kinds of assessments are included in the licensing process? (1) The department or (~~child placing agency~~) CPA will assess you for a foster family license. This will include, but is not (~~necessarily~~) limited to:

- (a) Your ability to comply with the licensing requirements;
- (b) The physical condition of your home and property;
- (c) The physical and mental health of all members of the household; and
- (d) Your ability to provide sufficient income to meet the financial needs of your family without the foster care reimbursements for foster children in your care, unless you are an approved PTFC home.

(2) At any time, we may require:

- (a) You or someone in your house to give additional information (~~(. We may also require)~~); or
- (b) An evaluation of your home or property, or of a person in your home, by an evaluator (~~(/)~~) or provider approved by the department.

(3) (~~(Any)~~) Evaluations requested by the department will be at your expense.

(4) You must give the evaluator written permission to share information with us throughout the evaluation process.