



THE COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION'S

Quarterly Update

WINTER 2019

CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL UPDATE

Children's Residential Licensing Program Mission:

The Children's Residential Licensing Program licenses and monitors Adoption Agencies, Foster Family Agencies and Certified Family Homes, Foster Family Homes, Resource Family Homes, Group Homes, Crisis Nurseries, Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelters, Small Family Homes, Transitional Housing Placement Programs, and Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs in an effort to ensure that they provide a safe and healthy environment for children who are in residential care.

A Note from Pamela Dickfoss, Deputy Director

Our hearts go out to those who have faced the devastation of wildfires throughout California and we are grateful to all of those who have been helping to keep our youth safe. Please refer to the [Department's Website](#) for related information and assistance.

The Children's Residential Program (CRP) is implementing ongoing reforms as well as a number of new laws passed by the Legislature. In addition to the continuing work of realizing the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) and Resource Family Approval (RFA), new legislation will require changes in how child welfare providers and Community Care Licensing (CCL) personnel operate. At the end of December, the Program's half dozen county liaisons, along with their counterparts in the CCR Branch, completed annual county reviews of all of California's 58 counties and their foster family home and RFA programs. This was a great achievement made more impressive by the fact that the reviews only began in May.

In 2019, CRP will promulgate regulations that address psychotropic medication usage, provide direction concerning the reasonable and prudent parent standard as it relates to healthy sexual development, revise existing policies governing Temporary Housing Placement Providers and Crisis Nurseries, and establish the new licensing categories of Private Alternative Boarding Schools and Children's Crisis Residential Programs. New versions of the Interim Licensing Standards for Foster Family Agencies and Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs will also be issued.

On the horizon in 2019 is the Foster Family Agency convening, which will provide support to FFAs implementing RFA, and give CRP vital insights into the successes achieved and challenges faced by our providers. I also want to thank you – the families, licensees, and concerned stakeholders who serve the vulnerable children of California – and wish each of you a Happy New Year.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

[New Bills](#)

[Healthy Habits- Nutrition](#)

[Commercial Sexual Exploitation](#)

[New Inspection Process Updates](#)

[Discouraging Unauthorized Absences](#)

[Management Information](#)

New Bills for the New Year

- [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1930](#) (Stone), which further refines CCR and RFA and makes other changes to child welfare law.
- [AB 1811](#), which was part of the state budget, added additional mandates on how congregate care facilities approach calling law enforcement on a child.
- [Senate Bill \(SB\) 1083](#) (Mitchell) makes numerous changes to RFA, including extending the deadline for foster homes to obtain resource family approval to the end of 2020.
- [AB 2119](#) (Gloria) added the consideration of gender affirming health care to a child's personal right to be involved in the development of his or her own case plan and plan for permanent placement.
- [AB 2448](#) (Gipson) added the right to computer access and the Internet to activities foster children and wards can participate in, with their caregivers, using the reasonable and prudent parent standard.

A Provider Information Notice outlining the implementation plans for these bills will be released soon. All are effective January 1, 2019, with the exception of AB 1811, which became effective when the budget was signed by the Governor in June.

CSEC- What is it and does it affect me?

CSEC is an acronym that refers to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, which includes crimes such as prostitution and child pornography. Child sex trafficking is one of the most common types of commercial sexual exploitation and is a nationwide problem.

You may have youth in your care that are either at risk or have been victims of traffickers. [Studies](#) have shown that 50-90% of child sex trafficking victims have been involved in the child welfare system. Several contributing factors can increase the risk for exploitation, including potentially unstable living situations,

distance from friends and family, traumatic experiences, and emotional vulnerability.

The California Department of Social Services began the [Child Trafficking Response Unit](#) (CTRU) in 2014, providing information, resources, training and support to child welfare and probation agencies across California.

If a child in your care is missing, you should immediately contact law enforcement to make a report. Next, contact the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#) at 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678).



Best Practices in Discouraging Unauthorized Absences

Although there are different reasons for unauthorized absences (AWOLs), there are two steps caregivers can take to decrease the likelihood of them happening. The first is to create an environment that encourages the youth to choose to remain at their home or facility. The second is to ensure that the caregiver tries to have a conversation with the youth if he or she informs them of the wish to leave. This clearly is not an option where the youth's AWOL is unannounced.

Caregivers are reminded that they cannot prevent foster youth from leaving their homes or facilities. However, they are responsible for taking steps to encourage the youth to stay and resolve the difficulties that are making them consider leaving (ensure health and safety). AWOLing can be a call for help or a way of getting attention. The caregiver who is ready to listen and is prepared to offer safe alternatives may make a positive impact and decrease the youth's desire to leave.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of sections taken from Title 22 Regulations and Interim Licensing Standards relating to this subject:

Foster Family Homes:

[§89372\(a\)\(8\) & \(b\)\(1\)](#) – Personal Rights
[§89379](#) – Activities
[§89405\(a\)\(1\)\(D\)](#) – Training Requirements

Group Homes:

[§84065.2\(b\)\(1\)](#) – Personnel Duties
[§84072\(d\)\(14\)](#) – Personal Rights
[§84079](#) – Planned Activities
[§84322.2](#) – Runaway Plan

Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs:

[§87065.2](#) – Personnel Duties
[§87072\(d\)\(14\)](#) – Personal Rights
[§87079](#) – Planned Activities
[§87095.24](#) – Runaway Plan

Resource Family Homes:

[§88487.6\(a\)\(5\)](#) – Reporting Requirements
[§88487.8\(b\)\(7\), \(c\)\(10\) & \(d\)\(1\)\(B\)](#) – Personal Rights
[§88487.13\(b\)](#) – Responsibility for Providing Care and Supervision
[§88487.14](#) – Extracurricular, Enrichment, Cultural, and Social Activities
[Written Directives 11-06\(a\)\(5\)](#) – Reporting Requirements
[Written Directives 11-08\(b\)\(7\), \(c\)\(10\) & \(d\)\(1\)\(B\)](#) – Personal Rights
[Written Directives 11-13\(b\)](#) – Responsibility for Providing Care and Supervision
[Written Directives 11-14](#) – Extracurricular, Enrichment, Cultural, and Social Activities



Healthy Habits- Nutrition

The [2015–2020 Dietary Guidelines](#) are designed to help Americans eat a healthier diet. Intended for policymakers and health care professionals, this edition outlines how people can improve their overall eating patterns—the complete combination of foods and drinks in their diet. Also offered are five overarching guidelines and a number of key recommendations with specific nutritional targets and dietary limits.

[MyPlate Videos](#) teamed up with Kids.gov (now part of USA.gov) and created videos that show kids (and adults, too) that healthy eating and physical activity can be both fun and easy – quick recipes, the five food groups, and more. [USA.gov](#) is the official portal for the U.S. government and, among other things, links kids, parents, and teachers to information and services from government agencies, schools, and educational organizations. **Note:** These videos are available on both [YouTube](#) and [TeacherTube](#).



New Inspection Process Updates

CCLD is continuing to develop comprehensive and specialty inspection tools for the Children’s Residential Program and is looking forward to learning from the results of the Senior Care Inspection Tool Pilot which concluded September 30, 2018. During the next few months, the Department will review and analyze the information collected and has partnered with California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) to complete an in-depth analysis of the findings to identify key performance indicators and provide recommendations for future development. The results of the Senior Care Inspection Tool Pilot will inform the development of the Children’s Residential Program Inspection Tools. We will share the findings of the pilot in the next quarterly update once available and look forward to working with you in the development and implementation of these tools.

More information can be found on the [Inspection Process Project website](#).

Management Information

Alan Elner was promoted to SSM I, Administrative Support and LIS/LAARS Check Unit, Children’s Residential Program Office, effective 8/31/18.

Kellee Coleman was promoted to LPM II, El Segundo Children’s Residential Regional Office, effective 10/1/18.



Are you interested in becoming part of the Community Care Licensing team?

Please apply at: [CalCareers](#)

- Information on how to apply for a State job can be found at the Cal Career [website](#).

Please remember to check for new [Provider Information Notices \(PINS\)](#).

Program Administrator- Jean Chen
Assistant Program Administrators:
 Angela Carmack- North
 Lenora Scott- South

IMPORTANT INFO AND PHONE NUMBERS	
Centralized Complaint Information Bureau (CCIB)	1-844-538-8766
Foster Care Rates	916-651-9152
Caregiver Background Check Bureau (CBCB)	1-888-422-5669
Foster Care Ombudsman	1-877-846-1602
CCL Public Inquiry and Response	916-651-8848
Technical Support Program	916-654-1541