

## **CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL UPDATE**

### *Children's Residential Licensing Program Mission:*

*To protect and improve the lives of all children who reside in a community care facility through the administration of a transparent licensing system that is collaborative, fair, and supportive of families.*

### A Note from Kevin Gaines, Deputy Director

Hello! My name is Kevin Gaines and it's my privilege to take over the helm as the new Deputy Director of the Community Care Licensing Division. I would like to begin with thank you to my predecessor, Pam Dickfoss, who recently retired. Pam was the Deputy Director for Community Care Licensing for six years and helped guide this agency. Through every challenge, she oversaw the equitable delivery and necessary evolution of community care services that protect some 40 million Californians. This agency is stronger because of her efforts and she will be missed immensely.



In addition, I thank Ley Arquisola who served as the acting Deputy Director. Her incredible work and dedication was commendable, and her assistance in making this a smooth transition, invaluable. We wish her well in her new endeavors at the Department of Developmental Services.

I have been in state service since 2005. Before taking this position, I served as Branch Chief for the Child Welfare System Branch, leading the maintenance and operations of the state child welfare case management system, and the project to replace it with new technology. Before this position, I acted as Assistant Deputy Director for the Children and Family Services Division and the Deputy Director for Local Government and Community Relations. I have served in local government for fifteen years in a wide range of roles, from implementation of state welfare reform, sponsorship of state public safety legislation, and public affairs. I'm excited to be working with the Community Care Licensing Division and look forward to finding ways to improve the services we deliver.

Something new in 2021 that I would like you to know about is the [Family Urgent Response System](#) for caregivers and children or youth, or FURS. The FURS will provide immediate, trauma-informed assistance to current and former foster youth and their caregivers through a coordinated system of responses, including state-wide phone support via a continuously available hotline and in-home de-escalation and stabilization support at the county level. You can get more information and contact FURS at [Cal-Furs](#) or by calling or texting: 1-833-939-3877.

My sincere thanks go out to our families, county staff, and the Children’s Residential Program staff who continue to surmount every obstacle and find joy in that success. We are through the worst of this pandemic and, together, will come out stronger than ever.

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## Maintaining Proper Temperature

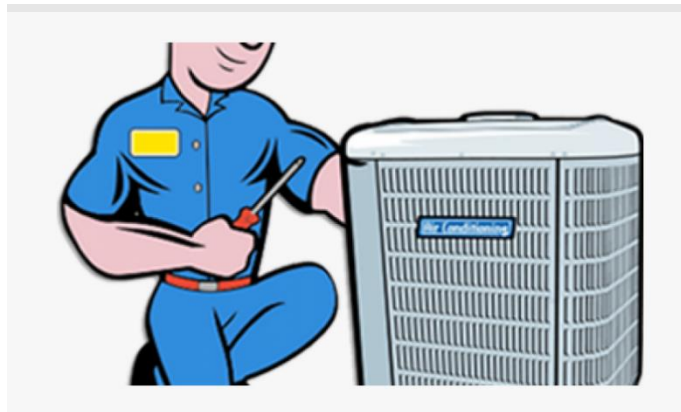
Most children and young adults feel cool but comfortable at the recommended temperature of 68°F and 72°F, especially when appropriately dressed for the weather.

The room temperature required at group homes and Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP) is a minimum of 68°F when it is cold and 78°F to 85°F in the summertime. In deserts or areas of extreme heat, the facility can be 30°F below the outside temperature. This means that if the temperature outside is more than 115°F, the facility’s temperature may be over 85°F.

Licenseses of group homes and STRTPs are required to maintain a comfortable temperature for children and nonminor dependents. Before the hot days of summer, licenseses should ensure that the air conditioner is in good working order.

Licenseses of group homes and STRTPs are encouraged to review the following Title 22 section:

- [Title 22, Section 80088\(a\) – Fixtures, Furniture, Equipment and Supplies](#)



## COVID-19 Conscious Summer Activities

Now that the summer months are here, some may be wondering what activities are safe to participate in during the coronavirus pandemic. Summer activities are going to look different this year, but the basics of coronavirus spread have not changed. If the decision is made to engage in outdoor and public activities, stay safe by [practicing everyday preventive actions](#).

**Enjoy the Outdoors** – According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), a person is less likely to be exposed to COVID-19 during outdoor activities. Getting outside provides more than a fun break for children. It is also good for overall physical and mental health and development. Safety guidelines should be followed when enjoying activities at a [park](#) or other outdoor spots. Take additional precautions when activities involve playing games or [sports](#) that involve sharing equipment, or when planning a [gathering](#) such as a cookout.

**Avoiding the Heat** – When escaping the summer heat indoors, try for as much ventilation as possible. Museums, movie theatres, bowling alleys and other indoor venues may be reopening but with some restrictions. County-specific status for these types of activities and the latest risk levels involved with participation can be found at the State of California’s [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#).

**Risk Assessment** – It is the responsibility of the licensee to assess the individual risk to each person in care and the [rate of infection](#) in the community before considering outdoor and public activities. If a child is at [increased risk](#) due to underlying health conditions, then more precautions will need to be taken prior to engaging in an activity.

Licensees of group homes and Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) are encouraged to review the following sections of Title 22 Regulations and Interim Licensing Standards (ILS):

- Group Home: [Title 22, Section 84079 – Planned Activities](#)
- STRTP: [ILS, Section 87079 – Planned Activities](#)



## Proper Hydration for Children During Summer

Summer outdoor activities for children may not be as frequent due to the necessary precautions being taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19. However, the need for proper hydration during the summer months continues to be an important part of preventing [heat-related illnesses](#) in children.

With much focus being placed on the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19, licensees must not overlook the other areas affecting children’s health and safety as well. The [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) recommends drinking plenty of water, regardless of one’s level of physical activity. However, sugary drinks and those that contain caffeine should be avoided because they can lead to the loss of bodily fluid.

As a best practice, care providers should conduct frequent check-ins with children to monitor for early signs of heat-related illnesses and to ensure they are drinking enough fluids. Those caring for infants and young children should keep in mind that they are less able to regulate the build-up of body heat than older children or adults.

Licensees of group homes and Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP) and Resource Families may wish to review the following sections of Title 22 Regulations and Interim Licensing Standards relating to appropriate care and supervision:



## **Group Homes & STRTPs**

[Title 22 Section 80065\(f\)\(5\) – Personnel Requirements](#)

[Title 22 Section 84065.2\(b\)\(1\) – Personnel Duties \(Group Homes Only\)](#)

[STRTP Interim Licensing Standards Section 87065.2\(b\)\(1\) – Personnel Duties](#)

## **Resource Family Homes**

[FFA Interim Licensing Standards Section 88487.11\(a\) – Food and Nutrition](#)

## **COVID-19 Conscious Summer Jobs/College Planning**

With the summer months fast approaching, it is important for licensees and Resource Families to begin planning on how to best support the children and nonminor dependents (NMD) in their care for a successful transition into young adulthood. This can include assistance with finding a job or planning for college or vocational school. A variety of resources exist to help with this process.

### **Job Search**

Depending on the child's or NMD's skillsets and level of experience, providers (inclusive of licensees and Resource Families) can offer assistance with creating a resume, completing a job application, or practicing job interviews. A variety of online resources exist for those planning to enter the workforce:

- [Career Exploration and Skill Development](#)

### **College Planning**

Planning for college can be a very exciting yet confusing process. Providers can best support children and NMDs by encouraging them to complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA); applying for scholarships/loans; meeting with a college advisor; creating an academic game plan that fits their goals. Every student's college experience is unique, so it is important to seek resources depending on their needs. The following are resources to assist with college planning:

- [CA Department of Education – College Planning](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education – Federal Student Aid](#)
- [U.S. Department of Labor's FREE scholarship search tool](#)
- [CaliforniaColleges.edu](#)

### **Vocational School Planning**

Vocational school training is a great option for those who are seeking hands-on training for a specific line of work. Types of vocational training programs include cosmetology, mechanics, culinary arts, plumbing, and construction. The following links are resources for exploring vocational school options:

- [U.S. Department of Education – Vocational Education National Programs](#)
- [U.S. Department of Labor – Find Local Training](#)
- [Federal Trade Commission – Choosing a Vocational School](#)
- [CA Department of Industrial Relation – Department of Apprenticeship Standards \(DAS\)](#)
- [CalApprenticeships](#)

Talk to your child or NMD to figure out what their interests are and together explore the best path for them.



## Guardian: A New Background Check System

The Care Provider Management Bureau has launched *Guardian*, a new background check system for all Regional Offices, agencies and applicants. *Guardian* is a tool to assist agencies and applicants in the background check process. *Guardian* ensures background checks are completed faster and more efficiently while making the process easier for applicants and agencies to request exemptions. Provided below are links to obtain more information on *Guardian*.

- For useful Guardian training tools, please visit the [Guardian Webpage](#).
- For Customer Service please contact the [Guardian email](#) box or call: (888) 422-5669.
- For login assistance please contact, [Guardian Login Support](#).

## Provider Information Notices as Training Tools

The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) uses Provider Information Notices (PINs) to formally communicate important license-related information to CCLD-licensed providers. Each PIN is cataloged numerically by year, sequential order of PIN release, and applicable program acronym. Licensees of the Children's Residential Program (CRP) can access PINs that are specific to [CRP](#) or access those specific to the subject of [COVID-19](#).

Licensees are required to know the current laws and regulations governing their license to operate, and keeping up with the latest PIN releases is an effective way to do so. The process is made even easier with the ability to [subscribe](#) to PINs.

As a best practice, licensees may wish to go through a PIN during staff meetings or staff training. Staff participation can be encouraged by having some of them read through portions of the PIN, followed by a brief discussion. Holding discussions is an effective way to make learning more interactive. It can also give staff a better understanding of how laws and regulations affect the day-to-day facility policies they are familiar with.



### **Recent 2021 PINs:**

- [PIN 21-16-CRP](#) - Guidance Regarding COVID-19 Vaccination Eligibility for Minor Youth 16 And 17 Years of Age in Foster Care
- [PIN 21-15-CRP](#) - Updated Guidance and Statewide Waiver of Licensing Requirements Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and In-Person Visitation
- [PIN 21-14-CRP](#) - Care and Supervision of Unaccompanied Undocumented Minors
- [PIN 21-13-CRP](#) - Assembly Bill 677, Chapter 805, Statutes of 2019 Intercountry Readoption Requirements
- [PIN 21-12-CRP](#) - Administration of Opioid Antagonist Naloxone in CRP Facilities
- [PIN 21-11-CRP](#) - Revisions to LIC 9106A Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program Plan of Operation and Program Statement
- [PIN 21-10-CRP](#) - County Resource Family Approval LIS/AARS Check Procedural Change

- [PIN 21-09-CRP](#) - COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Guidelines for Staff Working in Children’s Residential Community Care Facilities, Resource Families, and Certified Family Homes as Part of the Phase 1b Eligible Education and Child Care Sector
- [PIN 21-08-CRP](#) - Revised Regulations for Crisis Nurseries Published – ORD #0319-07
- [PIN 21-07-CRP](#) – Revised Guidance and Waivers Related to COVID-19 (**Supersedes PIN 20-21-CRP**)
- [PIN 21-06-CRP](#) - Plan of Operation Program Statement Reminder
- [PIN 21-05-CRP](#) - The Family Urgent Response System (FURS)
- [PIN 21-04-CRP](#) - Regulations for Community Crisis Homes Published ORD #0920-07
- [PIN 21-03-CRP](#) - 2020 Chaptered Legislation Affecting Children's Residential Facilities: Summary and Implementation
- [PIN 21-02-CRP](#) - Foster Family Agency Web Application Update
- [PIN 21-01-CRP](#) - Foster Family Agency Interim Licensing Standards (FFA ILS) Version 5

## Fires, Public Safety Power Shutoffs and other Emergencies in 2021

The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) will continue utilizing the **Everbridge Emergency Notification System** to communicate with licensed facilities in advance of (or during) disaster events. Such events include fires and Public Safety Power Shutoffs. The aim is to ensure the health and safety of the individuals served. Everbridge notifications are sent based on a mapping system that identifies facilities potentially impacted by a disaster event. Everbridge utilizes licensee and facility contact information provided to local Regional Offices.

Everbridge notifications are sent via text, e-mail, and/or phone call. These notifications will inform licensees of an event that may impact their facility’s operation. Everbridge may also request a response from the licensees on their facility’s evacuation status where evacuations are involved.

It is important for licensees to provide a response (if requested) on their facility’s status as soon as an Everbridge notification is received. If a response is not received by Everbridge when requested, CCLD will contact the licensee or their facility daily in order to obtain that information. Responding to Everbridge notifications when requested will help the Department and licensees communicate more effectively and efficiently during a disaster.

Depending on the type of response provided, the Department may follow up with the licensee in order to gather more information. For a more in-depth review of this subject, please see: [PIN 21-07-CCLD – PREPARING FOR EXTREME HEAT, PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFFS, AND WILDFIRE EMERGENCIES](#)



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 on the [Cal Career website](#).

IMPORTANT INFO AND PHONE NUMBERS	
Centralized Complaint Information Bureau (CCIB)	1-844-538-8766
Foster Care Rates	916-651-9152
Care Provider Management Bureau (CPMB)	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

**Program Administrator:** Jean Chen  
**Assistant Program Administrators:** Angela Carmack (North) & Kimberly Taylor (South)