

PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE
Division of Social Services - Foster Care Program



FAMILY FOSTER HOME LICENSING STANDARDS

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Foster Care". Substitute care for a child whose own family cannot provide care for a temporary or extended period of time. Foster care may be in a private family home, group foster home or an institution.
- B. "Licensed Medical Practitioner". Any doctor of medicine or osteopathic physician lawfully engaged in the practice of medicine.
- C. "Respite Care". The Provision of care of an individual for the purpose of relieving the family, guardian or foster family of the individuals care for short specified periods of time.
- D. "Department", shall mean the Pascua Yaqui Social Services Department.

SECTION 2. REQUIREMENTS OF INITIAL LICENSING

- A. Application
 - a. Married or single person desiring to provide foster care shall make written application to the department on the prescribed form.
 - b. Applicants shall participate in interviews and home studies, as required by the Social Services Department.
 - c. Applicants shall comply with this article.
 - d. Applicants shall cooperate with the department in obtaining information necessary to determine if the home meets licensing standards. Such cooperation includes, but is not limited to, executing a release of information, and obtaining psychological, psychiatric or other evaluations.
- B. Requirements of applicants and household members
 - a. Applicants shall be over the age of 21 years.
 - b. Applicants and members of the household 18 years or older shall be fingerprinted, unless physically impossible, for a criminal record check.
 - c. Applicants shall have income, independent of foster care payments, adequate to meet the needs of the family unit.
 - d. Both parents shall not be employed outside the home unless the hours of work do not conflict with the appropriate care and supervision of the children by a responsible adult. Any plan for the supervision of the children in the working foster parents' absence must meet the approval of an authorized representative of the department.
 - e. The applicants shall be in good physical and mental health.

SECTION 3. ECONOMIC SECURITY

- A. Applicants shall submit a statement from a licensed medical practitioner stating that each adult living in the home who will assume any child care responsibilities was seen by the practitioner within he lasts six (6) months. The statement will include the following:

- a. A description, to the best of the practitioner's knowledge, of their general physical and emotional health, and any medical or emotional problems that would prevent them from properly caring for foster children.
 - b. Applicants shall submit documentation that each child living in the home has received the immunizations appropriate to his or her age and state of health. As an alternative, applicants may submit a signed statement that their child (ren) has not been immunized because of affiliation with a religion which is opposed to such immunizations.
- B. Applicants shall provide the department with three references, not related to the applicant, as to their character and ability to care for children. The department may contact these references for further information. Neighbors may be contacted.
- C. Applicants shall attend initial training as required by the department plus any additional training required by the department.
- D. The decision to be licensed as a foster home shall be agreeable to all family members.
- E. Applicants shall demonstrate an understanding of and the ability to handle the emotional, physical, developmental, educational and intellectual needs of children.
- F. Applicants shall demonstrate the ability to provide nurtured warmth, intellectual stimulation, and be able to protect children from harm.
- G. Applicants shall have a wholesome attitude toward, and understanding of, habit training, discipline, health, nutrition, sex education, and the various experiences that a child may have and with which a child may need assistance and guidance.
- H. Additional personal qualifications:
Special foster home parents shall:
- a. Have the necessary patience, understanding and acceptance to supervise and motivate children who are physically handicapped, developmentally disabled, emotionally disturbed or delinquent.
 - b. Have previous training or experience or demonstrate a willingness to care for children with special needs.
 - c. Have the ability to work effectively with the worker and other specialists involved in planning and treatment of the child.
 - d. Participate in specialized learning experiences when available.
 - e. Have a physical setting appropriate to the special needs of the child (ren).
- Receiving foster home parents shall:
- a. Have a household that is exceptionally flexible and capable of accepting children.
 - b. Help children in all states of emotional stress at all hours of the day and night.
 - c. Participate in specialized training when available.
- I. Requirements of the home
- a. The foster home shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition.
 - b. The foster home shall be inspected and meet the requirements of the Social Services Department, fire safety inspections shall be made in all mobile homes and when necessary in order to verify conformity to fire codes.
 - c. The foster home shall comply with local building, health, fire or other codes in effect in the jurisdiction where it is located.
 - d. Swimming pools shall meet the following requirements. All homes licensed for children under age six (6) must have swimming pools separately fenced and made inaccessible. All children who are unable to swim shall not be in pool area unless supervised. Foster parents shall establish safety rules for use of the pool appropriate to age and ability of the children.
 - e. Medicines, toxics and corrosive materials shall be kept in locked storages.
 - f. Firearms shall be locked up at all times and ammunition shall be kept in a separate locked storage.
 - g. Bedrooms shall have light, ventilation and a useable exit to the outside in case of emergency.
 - h. Each child shall have his/her own bed and a place to store clothing and personal belongings.

- i. Each home licensed for children under two years of age shall have a crib available for use by such children or in the alternative, shall have available other safe sleeping facilities for use by such children which have been approved by the licensing worker.
- j. Telephone service or similar communication methods shall be available in the home.
- k. Foster parents shall have liability insurance on their vehicles transporting foster children.

SECTION 4. REQUIREMENTS FOR RELICENSING

- A. The foster home license expires two years form date of issuance.
- B. For renewing foster homes shall meet all requirements in section 3 above with the following exceptions:
 - a. A statement of health shall be provided at least every two years.
 - b. Inspection by the department shall be made a least every year.
 - c. References are not required.
- C. Finger prints must be obtained for any household member 18 years or older.
- D. Foster parents must participate in ongoing training as required by the department.

SECTION 5. RESPONSIBILITIES TO DEPARTMENT OR PLACING AGENCY

The foster parent shall:

- A. Work as a team member with the department and other professionals developing and implementing the child's casework plan.
- B. Immediately report to the department any serious illness, serious injury or any unusual circumstance affecting the health, safety or physical or emotional well being of the child.
- C. Make every reasonable effort to support and maintain the child's relationships with his/her biological family and other persons important to the child's life, as approved or required by the department or placing agency of the court.
- D. Maintain custodial care of foster children. Visitations or outings with other adults must be approved by the department or placing agency.
- E. Maintain a confidential record for each foster child of social, medical and educational events important to the child, including pictures.
- F. Use clothing money provided by the department only for the child and maintains records of expenditures for clothing.
- G. Give to the child the personal allowance provided by the department for his use and which is over and above the normal expenses paid for by the department.
- H. Notify the department or placing agency when the foster parent:
 - a. Change residency or build an addition to the home. Such change requires an inspection.
 - b. Change marital status or living arrangements.
 - c. Change in the family composition when a new member is added to the household or when a temporary visitor stays more than one month. When any new member or temporary visitor stays more than two months the foster parent must notify the department in order that further investigation may be made to determine if, with the additional person in the home, the licensing standards are still met.
- I. Not provide categories of care other than foster care, except that a foster home may provide both respite care and foster care simultaneously so long as the total number of children at any one time does not exceed the limit set out in the foster family home license.
- J. Not combine care of adults and children, except in the case of an unmarried mother and her child or in the case of persons under twenty-one (21) years of age who voluntarily remain in foster care, and who are currently enrolled in a regularly attending school and have not received high school diplomas or certificates of equivalency.
- K. Not accept adult roomers or boarders. An exception would be if the roomer or boarder has been with the family for a long period of time and is considered a member of the family. In this case, all the requirements for the

family must also be met by the roomer or boarder. Another exception is that foster children reaching eighteen (18) years of age may remain in the home as roomers, if the plan is approved by the licensing agency.

- L. Treat all information concerning a child and the parents as confidential information without authorization of the department.

SECTION 6. DENIAL, SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE

- A. The denial, suspension or revocation of a license shall be in compliance with the following. The department shall deny, suspend or revoke any license when:
 - a. The foster home is not in compliance with the licensing standards of the department.
 - b. The applicants or foster parents refuse to cooperate in obtaining information necessary to determine whether these standards have been met.

SECTION 7. FOSTER CARE LICENSING COMMITTEE

- A. The department shall establish a committee of no less than three persons and no more than five persons who shall be assigned the responsibility of reviewing the foster home application and related materials. After reviewing the application, the committee shall submit a recommendation to the Social Services Director of the applicants' suitability to be a foster parent.