

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

## CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

March 15, 2012

<p><b><u>What's Inside:</u></b> Stepparents as resource providers</p>
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## M E M O R A N D U M

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: CANDACE A. SHIVELY, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: STEPPARENTS AS RESOURCE PROVIDERS

## DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify policy regarding stepparents as resource providers.

A stepparent by legal definition, RSMo 210.481 (9), is a relative. If a legal status 1 foster youth is placed in the home of their stepparent, the placement type is an RHU, unlicensed relative home, not pursuing licensure. If the placement provider is a prior stepparent who is divorced from the child's natural parent, then the placement type is a KHU, unlicensed kinship home.

Stepparents are not eligible for pursuing a foster home licensure; therefore, they are not eligible for maintenance payment. Pursuant to statute 453.400, a stepparent shall support his or her stepchild to the same extent that a natural or adoptive parent is required to support his or her child so long as the stepchild is living in the same home as the stepparent. If the stepparent needs financial assistance, they may apply for TANF benefits.

If the stepparent gets divorced from the natural parent, their vendor type changes to a KHU and they may pursue licensure to be eligible for maintenance payment.

Stepparents are not eligible for adoption or guardianship subsidy if they are married to the natural parent of the child.

**NECESSARY ACTION**

1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division staff.
2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below.
3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:

<b>PDS CONTACT</b> Elizabeth Tattershall 573-522-1191 <a href="mailto:Elizabeth.Tattershall@dss.mo.gov">Elizabeth.Tattershall@dss.mo.gov</a>	<b>PROGRAM MANAGER</b> Dena Driver 573-751-3171 <a href="mailto:Dena.D.Driver@dss.mo.gov">Dena.D.Driver@dss.mo.gov</a>
<b>CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS</b> <a href="#">Relative or Kinship Care, Section 4 Chapter 12 Subsection 3</a>	
<b>FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS</b> N/A	
<b>REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES</b> N/A	
<b>RELATED STATUTE</b> <a href="#">RSMo 210.481</a> <a href="#">RSMo 453.400</a>	
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE RULE</b> N/A	
<b>COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS</b> N/A	
<b>CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR)</b> N/A	
<b>PROTECTIVE FACTORS</b> N/A Parental Resilience Social Connections Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development Concrete Support in Times of Need Social and Emotional Competence of Children	
<b>FACES REQUIREMENTS</b> N/A	