

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

August 28, 2017

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: CHILDREN'S DIVISION AND CONTRACTED STAFF

FROM: TIM DECKER, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: NEW DEFINITION OF RELATIVE FOSTER CARE PER
CHAPTER 210.565 OF THE MISSOURI REVISED STATUTE

DISCUSSION:

The 2017 Missouri legislature passed Senate Bill 160 which redefined "relative" for the purpose of providing foster care services; "...the term "relative" means a grandparent or any other person related to another by blood or affinity or a person who is not so related to the child but has a close relationship with the child or the child's family." (Revised Missouri Statute 210.565). This definition begins August 28, 2017. In response to the legislative action, Children's Division will no longer use the term "kinship" as a type of foster care resource provider.

The relationship with a supportive relative is very important. If the relative applicant does not meet specified non-safety licensing requirements listed in Chapter 13 of the Code of State Regulations 35-60.080, consideration, based on the foster youth(s)' needs, familiarity in the home and the close relationship the youth has with the applicant may be explored on a case by case basis for use of the waivers.

Examples of those relative applicants that a worker might consider using a waiver to become licensed include:

- The foster youth is over six years of age has stayed with the relative previously and slept in the same room with their cousins of the opposite sex with no concerns
- The foster youth will be able to stay in the same school district but there are already 4 children living in the home and the youth and her two siblings will cause the home to be over the allowable five children living in the home

The CD-152 form must be completed prior to the license begin date. The explanation of how using the waiver will pose no safety concerns must be written in the comments section, field #11, on the form. Once all approval signatures are obtained, the form must be sent to Central Office for data collection.

A Systems Change Request has been submitted to address the changes that need to be made in FACES. Until FACES changes have been made, the following steps are to be taken for KH vendors:

- When it is time to renew a KH home that meets all license renewal requirements (including but not limited to 30 hours of in-service training, home assessment updated and signed, background checks received with no exclusionary history) close the KH home using the same date of expiration with close reason “discontinued services” and in the comments box enter the KH vendor is transitioning to an RH vendor per SB160.
- Open a RH application for the DVN on the FACES *Application* screen with the begin date the same date as the renewal begin date and approve the RH license on the *Vendor License, Approval and Renewal* screen with the same begin date to avoid any gap in maintenance payments.
- Beginning immediately, do not open any KH applications.

NECESSARY ACTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division staff. 2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below. 3. Review revised Children's Division Forms as indicated below. 4. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to: 	
PDS CONTACT Elizabeth Tattershall 573-522-1191 Elizabeth.Tattershall@dss.mo.gov	MANAGER CONTACT Amy Martin 573-526-8040 Amy.L.Martin@dss.mo.gov
CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS Section 4 Chapter 12 Other parts of the manual that contain the word “kinship”	
<u>FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS</u> CD-71 CD-72 CD-152	
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES 13 CSR 35-60.080	
RELATED STATUTE 210.565	