

## **TRAINING**

Each individual foster parent must submit documentation of completed training to the licensing worker on form 470-2540, *Foster Parent Training Report*, or its equivalent within 30 days of completing the training and before expiration of the license. *(See Appendix)*

**Best Practice:** Keep copies of all documentation and certificates of completion for the training you complete (both pre-service and in-service) in a file of important records relating to your foster home license.

### **Pre-Service Training Requirement**

Applicants must complete 30 hours of foster parent pre-service training and complete the Universal Precautions in Foster and Adoptive Homes questionnaire as a condition for initial licensure. Applicants must attend training approved by DHS. All new foster parents will be required to take the Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (MAPP) pre-service (30 hours) before licensure. Pre-service training hours do not count towards the annual six credit hours of in-service training.

Each foster family receives a \$100 stipend upon issuance of license to help defray the expenses of attending Iowa pre-service training. For additional information about the training stipend, see *Training Stipend*.

### **In-Service Training Requirement**

Each individual foster parent shall complete at **least** six credit hours of approved in-service training annually, **before the expiration date on your license**. At least three of the six hours must be in a group. Annual training hours may be increased through legislative action.

A “credit hour” consists of:

- One hour of face-to-face contact in a group, or
- One hundred pages of written material, or
- Two program hours of a movie or television show, or
- One credit hour of college work, or
- One self-instructional piece (SIP) or self-instructional module developed by Iowa State University Child Welfare Research and Training Project.
- One credit hour of an approved Internet course up to a maximum of three credit hours.

Each foster family receives an annual \$100 stipend for expenses related to training after re-licensure.

### **Approved Training Opportunities**

The following training programs are approved (no additional approval is needed in order to receive credit for attending these programs) to meet your annual in-service training requirements:

- Workshops offered at the Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents (IFAPA) annual conference.
- Workshops offered at the National Foster Parent Association's annual conference.
- Identified DHS core courses.
- Self-Instructional Piece Series (SIPS) published by American Foster Care Resources, Inc.
- ISU self-instructional study pieces prepared by Iowa State University.
- Through IFAPA, web site training for a maximum of three credit hours.

### **Applying for Approval for Other Topics**

Child placing agencies, training providers, licensing workers, foster parent support groups or foster parents may apply for approval for other training using the *Foster Parent Training Application*.

Submit this form to the Department licensing worker for the area in which the training will be conducted. The service area manager or designee will issue its decision within 30 days of receiving the request. Foster parents wishing information about what training has been approved should contact their licensing worker.

The content of in-service training shall relate to:

- Your role in providing foster care.
- Skills needed by a person in their role as a foster parent.

In-service training must address one or more of the following topics:

- Adolescence
- Adoption issues
- AIDS and HIV
- Blood-borne pathogens
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or first aid
- Child abuse dynamics and effects
- Child abuse identification and reporting
- Child development
- Communication
- Confidentiality
- Conflict resolution in the family
- Crisis intervention
- Discipline and behavior management
- Documentation and report preparation
- Educational needs of all children in foster care
- Emotional and mental health needs of children
- Family dynamics
- Fetal alcohol effects (FAE) and fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS)
- Health needs of foster children and working with the medical system
- Identification, utilization and role of support systems
- Impact of physical abuse, neglect, and sexual abuse
- Independent living skill training
- Juvenile court process

- Life books
- Medical management for children
- Mental retardation and development disabilities
- Negotiation skills
- Parenting
- Participation in juvenile court hearings
- Participation in foster care reviews
- Passive restraint of children
- Permanency planning
- Physical and mental disabilities in children
- Physical therapy with children
- Record keeping for foster care
- Role of guardian ad litem and CASA
- Self-care skill training with children
- Separation and attachment
- Sexuality of children
- Sign language
- Stress and foster parenting
- Substance abuse in children
- Suicide prevention with children
- Teamwork and team approach to case permanency planning
- Treatment care documentation standards
- Understanding, supporting, and working with the child's birth family
- Use of community resources for children and families
- Other topics related to foster parenting or the needs of a foster child

### **Mandatory Reporter Training**

*(See also **PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE IN FOSTER CARE**)*

Foster parents are mandatory reporters of child abuse. As mandatory reporters, foster parents are required to complete two hours of training in child abuse identification and reporting. **This training must be taken within six months of initial licensing and every five years thereafter.** Contact your licensing worker for training that is approved to meet this requirement.

### **Documenting Completion of Required Training**

*(See Appendix)*

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**Best Practice:** Keep copies of all documentation and certificates of completion for the training (both pre-service and in-service) in a file of important records relating to your foster home license.