

CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL UPDATE

Children's Residential Licensing Program Mission:

The Children's Residential Licensing Program licenses and monitors Adoption Agencies, Foster Family Agencies and Homes, Group Homes, Licensed Foster Family Homes, Runaway Youth Shelters, Small Family Homes, and Transitional Housing in an effort to ensure that they provide a safe and healthy environment for children who are in residential care.

A Note from Pamela Dickfoss, Deputy Director

I am happy to announce that California's 2015-16 budget builds upon the CDSS licensing improvement efforts including development of a Quality Assurance and Technical Assistance Bureau, increased training and centralization of complaints initiated in Fiscal Year 2014-15. The Administration supported the request for resources to steadily increase visits to facilities, strengthen enforcement and expand technical assistance to increase compliance. These resources will provide critical assistance to licensees and licensing staff to improve the health and safety for all individuals who reside or spend a portion of their time in out of home care.

Over the next four years, CDSS will increase the frequency of inspections from the current minimal level of an inspection at least once every five years to once every three years for Child Care facilities (by January 2017), once every two years for Children's Residential facilities (by January 2018) and annual inspections for Adult and Senior Care facilities (by January 2019). The Department is equally committed to mitigating the existing backlog of open complaint investigations in the Adult and

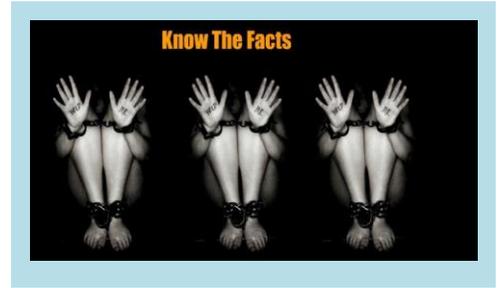
Senior Care and Children's Residential Programs with the addition of 13 limited term positions. Additionally, we will enhance technical assistance and support to our licensees and establish a southern California training unit to effectively develop and retain staff competencies. Finally, CDSS is committed to having a quality staff that reflects the many diverse communities we serve.

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Human Trafficking

[Human trafficking](#) is a form of slavery. It is a crime that involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, provide or obtain a person for the purposes of sexual or labor exploitation. Victims of human trafficking are young children, teenagers, men and women.



Children who are trafficked for sexual exploitation are often referred to as Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC), or Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CESY). According to the [California Child Welfare Council fact sheet](#), despite current efforts, the number of children being sexually exploited is growing. This is due in part to the amount of money an exploiter may make; with as few as four children, they could make up to \$650,000 in a year. Exploited youth come from urban, rural and suburban areas. Many exploiters move children between trafficking hubs to further control and isolate them. Out of the thirteen High Intensity Child Prostitution areas identified by the FBI, three are located in California; San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

Challenges Unique to the CSEC Population:

- Actively pursued and controlled by criminals
- Experience extreme levels of trauma that result in strong bonds with their exploiters. This strong bond makes it difficult to engage youth, and is similar to the bond created in domestic and intimate partner violence relationships
- Face stigma and shame associated with prostitution
- Children who experienced sexual abuse are 28 times more likely to be arrested for prostitution at some point than children who did not experience sexual abuse.

Looking for more information?

- [California Child Welfare Council Report](#)
- [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#)
- [Overview of Human Trafficking](#)

Foster Care Ombudsman

The Office of the Foster Care Ombudsman (FCO) was established by legislation as an autonomous entity within the California Department of Social Services. The FCO's mission includes being a strong voice for children in foster care and partners with many key agencies, public and private, to improve the lives of our foster children. Since the office opened on May 2, 2000, the FCO has been providing services which include: investigating complaints, disseminating information on the rights of children in foster care and conducting

trainings to key stake holder groups. The FCO maintains a toll free help-line (1-877-846-1602) to receive complaints from anyone that has concerns about the care, placement or services provided to a foster child.

The FCO provides annual reports and special reports that address the various issues impacting children and youth in foster care and recommendations to improve the child welfare system. These reports can be found on the

Foster Care Ombudsman, continued

FCO information packed website:

www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov

The annual reports present a summary of the data for that year including the number of complaints, number of requests for information, the complainants, the complaint issues, as well as data on the trainings provided by FCO. The FCO receives complaints from a wide-range of people including foster youth, parents, relatives and professionals. The majority of complaints involve issues categorized as child welfare practices followed by personal rights violations. The majority of personal rights violations are from foster youth living in group homes. The FCO office protocols require FCO staff to make a complaint referral to CCL whenever there is a personal rights violation and often the FCO staff will conduct a joint investigation with the CCL/LPA assigned to the complaint. The FCO is grateful for and acknowledges the collaborative work with CCL/LPAs in addressing the complaints.

The FCO is also active in child welfare system reform efforts. During the last year, the FCO staff, CDSS staff, other child welfare professionals, advocates and community members have joined forces to improve the child welfare system by collaborating on the following projects: Quality Parenting Initiative, Continuum of Care Reform, Resource Family Approval Project, Caregiver Advocacy Network and the Child Welfare Council. These reform efforts are all focused on improving the quality of care that every foster child receives.

The FCO has a dedicated and hard-working team who each brings unique skills and varied educational and professional backgrounds. We are especially privileged to have six former foster youth on our FCO staff as Student Assistants they bring their unique voice and perspectives on foster care. The FCO provides training on the personal rights, the services of the FCO and the various reform efforts to various groups including; group home staff, foster parents, Court Appointed Child

Advocates (CASA), advocates and child welfare professionals. The FCO student assistants share their personal foster care stories which are always the highlight of the training. Also they are able to communicate to caregivers the importance of providing quality care for all foster children and to give personal examples of excellent caregivers and those that actually were abusive or neglectful. The FCO student assistants are all attending college and working part time. They all express their desire to help make the foster care system better for all foster children. The following are a few quotes from our current FCO student assistants about their experiences in foster care and their goals for the future.

“My experience while being in foster care was a difficult road. I entered foster care at 13 years old with my brother and sister. We didn’t understand the system and could not understand the judge saying you’re not going home. It was rocky for me at first, but I’m still close to my foster mother to this day, and we talk regularly. Eventually my mother completed her case plan and we were all returned after 2 ½ years. My current goals are finishing college with a criminal justice degree. The FCO office provides a place for me to give hope to foster youth and show that someone in the world cares about them.” TYRONE

“I was in foster care for 10 years, and experienced some good foster homes but also some in which I suffered abuse. I especially missed my siblings who were placed in another foster home and hated being moved from home to home. Eventually my mother was able to get her life back together and we are all living with her now... my goal is to get my Masters in Social Work. I feel the FCO office has and will continue to help me on my journey to reach my goals. I am grateful for this opportunity and being able to work with people that have a passion for help foster youth and making a difference for foster youth as much as I do!” SERENA

Centralized Complaint and Information Bureau (CCIB) Update

The CCIB unit is currently accepting complaints, general questions regarding the Title 22 regulations, conducting file reviews for the public and providing criminal record clearance information for licensees and staff. Individual Regional Offices will continue to receive and process Unusual Incident Reports (UIR)—these will not come to CCIB. By having CCIB take responsibility for the majority of the Officer of the Day functions, Licensing Program

Analysts are freed up to spend more time in the field conducting complaint investigations, random annual and five-year visits and, most importantly, assisting licensees with maintaining compliance with the regulations. CCIB is staffed with 21 Licensing Program Analysts, two Licensing Program Managers and a Bureau Chief. All CCIB staff have training in all of CCLD's licensing categories. CCIB was launched on January 20, 2015.

Prevent Heat-Related Illness

Ensure that the temperature in your facility is always safe and comfortable, and that water and other fluids are readily available to residents and staff. The elderly, the very young and those with chronic illnesses are at greatest risk of heat related illnesses.

Review your facility's emergency disaster plan. It should include:

- Up-to-date emergency telephone number for local first responders
- Contingency plans in case the facility's air-conditioning system goes out
- An evacuation plan in case residents need to be moved to a motel or other "cooling center."
- A way for staff to easily gain access to important resident paperwork, and take with them
 - Placement Agreements
 - Medical Consents
 - JV-220's
 - Authorized Representative and their immediate supervisors contact information
 - List of medications the resident is taking

Things to remember

- Many psychotropic drugs have heat warnings. Always check to make sure that the resident's medication is heat compatible before they go outside
- Monitor the television or radio for important local heat-related announcements.
- Report any heat-related illnesses/deaths to the local licensing office immediately.
- Be alert for any changes in clients/residents—physical, mental or emotional—that may indicate a heat-related illness.
- Hot weather brings mosquitoes and the risk of contracting West Nile Virus (WNV). If mosquitoes are abundant, residents should remain indoors in the early morning and at twilight, when mosquitoes are most active. Repellents should be used cautiously especially on children and the elderly. For additional information on the use of chemical repellents, administrators or infection control practitioners should consult the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

Prevent Heat Related Illnesses, continued

Recommendations

- Encourage residents and staff to remain hydrated by setting up a hydration station in a central location that offers water and other fluids
- Offer cool “treats” like popsicles, sliced frozen fruit, or other cool or frozen items

Visit our website to see CCLD [Tips to Prevent Heat Related Illnesses](#), or The Office of Emergency Services provides [Heat Resources information](#)

Most Cited Deficiencies in Group Home Inspections

The Quality Assurance, Advocacy, and Technical Support (QAATS) Bureau recently released the [Group Home Facilities- Most Common Deficiencies for 2014](#). To create this list, the Quality Assurance Unit reviewed a sample drawn from all five of the Children’s Residential Program Regional Offices. The list reviewed 189 Inspection Visit Reports (Random Annual, Five Year Visit & Required Visit) and 412 citations. This list is limited to

those deficiencies cited in three percent or more of inspections. The Quality Assurance unit did not review any complaint investigations to create this list. CCLD hopes the lists assists licensees to understand issues that are commonly cited during inspections. Please contact the [Technical Support Program](#) for assistance in using this tool to help prepare for inspection.

Positional Asphyxia

According to the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#), positional asphyxia is when death occurs due to the positioning of an individual’s body such that it interferes with the individual’s ability to breathe. According to the [Department of Justice](#) these instances may occur due to the inadvertent compression of the torso area of the individual’s body, for example, when a staff person uses body weight as a restraint on a resident’s chest or back to help hold the resident down in a manner intended to lessen the possibility for injury.

According to the [Crisis Prevention Institute](#) (CPI) intervention techniques that help minimize the risk of positional asphyxia include:

- Minimize the amount of time during which a resident is in restraint.
- Move the resident out of a “prone position,” or any position that compresses their chest, and into one where torso compression is less likely to occur as quickly as possible.

- Never press or push on a resident’s back or chest area for an extended period.
- Have staff who are not involved in the restraint continuously check the resident’s breathing, and confirm with the resident that they can breathe.
- Create a system in which staff can “switch out” with other staff.

If resident states they are unable to breathe, you should:

- Offer the resident their inhaler, if they have one.
- Release the resident from the restraint or readjust the restraint to allow the resident to breathe.

If the resident is non-responsive or not breathing:

- Call 9-1-1.
- If a resident is not breathing, begin CPR.

The Drought and Wildfires

California is experiencing the worst water crisis in our modern history. We are in the third consecutive year of extremely dry conditions. Precipitation and snowpack are a small fraction of their normal averages, reservoirs are at very low levels and rivers have severely diminished flows. We face extreme water scarcity for an uncertain amount of time. This growing crisis made it necessary for Governor Brown to proclaim a [state of emergency](#) in January and call on all Californians to reduce their water consumption by 20 percent. California is taking immediate action to conserve all we can, including holding back water in our reservoirs for use later in the year. California is also taking steps to increase water storage, conservation, recycling, water transfers and other solutions that will increase our water reliability for years to come.

Local governments and agencies around the state have already taken action by calling for or requiring conservation, declaring emergencies, and identifying and implementing projects to increase resiliency in water management. Most communities have already begun coordinating with their neighbors, the state and federal government.

What You Can Do To Help

- [Educate yourself](#) and others about how to conserve water, and why it is important to do so.
- Put your lawn on a “water diet,” and do not water for at least 48 hours after it rains.
- Create a plan on how to conserve water in your facility.
- Check with you local [water agency](#). Remember, they may have additional water conservation regulations.

Be Alert! It is Wildfire Season

Late summer is usually the season for wild fires in California. However, after four years of drought, with bone-dry conditions throughout our state, fire season started early this year. There are a number of things you can do to prepare your home and yourself if a fire threatens your home:

- Have an evacuation plan. Practice evacuating your home or facility with your residents. Everyone in the home should be aware of what to do in case there is a need to evacuate, and if you have residents who need assistance, your staff must be well equipped and organized. For more information on preparing your home, visit CalFire’s [Ready for Wildfire](#) website.
- Make sure that fire suppression systems, and required smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are in place and working at all times
- Create a defensible space around your home or facility by clearing away dead branches, wood piles and vegetation from your roof, patio furniture and play equipment. Keep your rain gutters free of debris.
- Have your emergency plan in place as to where you would relocate residents if necessary. Keep all important phone numbers and addresses handy.
- Notify your Licensing Program Analyst as soon as possible if you do have to relocate.

Community Care Licensing tracks fires that may pose a danger to our facilities on a seven day a week, 24-hour basis. By notifying us if you have to relocate, we can assist you to ensure that your residents and children are safe and get the services they need.

Criminal Clearance and Exemption Transfers

Please note: this article was corrected after this Update's original publication.

Active criminal record clearances and exemptions must be transferred between state licensing facilities.

Did you know?

- A clearance or exemption can remain active as long as the individual is associated to a licensed facility. If an individual is disassociated from a facility, he/she must be associated to another facility within three years or he/she will become inactive.
- If an individual becomes inactive, he/she must be printed and cleared again before working, residing or volunteering in a licensed facility.
- Facilities should not request individuals with active clearances to be reprinted as this can cause delays.
- Facilities should submit a transfer request form to the Department before the individual has contact with children or the facility will be in violation of the law and subject to civil penalties.

Additionally, a Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) check must be submitted if the transfer is to a facility serving children and the individual has not previously submitted a CACI check or the date of the previous CACI inquiry was made prior to January 1, 1999.

Interested in transferring a criminal record clearance?

A licensee or applicant for a license seeking a clearance transfer must provide the following documentation:

- A signed Criminal Background Clearance Transfer Request, [LIC 9182](#).
- A copy of the individual's Driver's License or a California identification a valid identification card issued by another state agency.
- Any other documentation required by the Department (e.g., [LIC 508 - Criminal Record Statement](#) and job description).

Interested in transferring a criminal record exemption?

A licensee or applicant for a license seeking an exemption transfer must provide the following documentation:

- A signed Criminal Background Exemption Transfer Request, [LIC 9188](#).
- A copy of the individual's California Driver's License or a valid identification card issued by another state agency.
- Any other documentation required by the Department (e.g., [LIC 508 - Criminal Record Statement](#) and job description).

Remember, it is the facilities' responsibility to ensure employees, adult residents and volunteers specified in law have criminal record clearances or exemptions and licensing is notified of changes to the criminal record clearances.

Change in Regional Office Live Scan Services

As of June 30, 2015, due to the end of CCLD's contract with the Live Scan vendor, live scan services are no longer offered in the Regional Offices. For those who need live scan services, but are unsure where to go, please call your local regional office for more information.

IMPORTANT INFO AND PHONE NUMBERS

Centralized Complaint Information Bureau (CCIB)	1-844-538-8766
Foster Care Rates	916-651-9152
Caregiver Background Check Bureau (CBCB)	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

Notes and Credits

The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) publishes the Children's Residential Program Quarterly Update for the benefit of Licensees, Parents, Clients, Residents, and Stakeholders.

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