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Children's Residential Care Update

WINTER 2011-12/SPRING 2012



Welcome to our Winter 2011-12/Spring 2012 *Children's Residential Care Update*. This is a combined *Children's Residential Care Update* for the last quarter of 2011 and first and second quarters of 2012. We are in the twenty-first year of our efforts to keep the children's residential care community informed of licensing programs and services. Your support in sharing this *Update* with colleagues in your organization and others interested in children's issues is appreciated.

You may now find the topic of your choice in each *Update* without having to scroll down. Just go to the next page and put your cursor over the blue highlighted subject heading that you wish to review, hold down the control button and click on your mouse at the same time, and you will be taken to that area of the *Update*.

Our *Updates* are available online at the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) website. They can be viewed or obtained at <http://cclld.ca.gov/PG457.htm>.

Winter

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UPDATED LAW ON CHILD PASSENGER RESTRAINTS

On October 4, 2011, Governor Brown signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 929 (Chapter 474, Statutes of 2011), which increases the requirements for children riding in any vehicle to be properly restrained in a child safety or booster seat in the rear seat until their 8th birthday. The increase from six years old (or 60 pounds) to eight years old went into effect January 1, 2012.

All children from ages eight to 16 must also be properly restrained in a child safety, booster, or vehicle seat belt that is appropriate to their needs. A booster seat is a child restraint that raises a child up so that the vehicle's lap-shoulder belt is properly positioned across the strong bones of their bodies.

Studies indicate that the number one cause of death for children in the United States is vehicle collisions. Children who are seated in a booster seat in the rear of a car have been found to be 45 percent less likely to be injured in a crash when compared to those with only a seat belt. Children who are up to age eight and riding in a rear vehicle seat have their injury risk reduced by 64 percent, while children from ages nine to 12 have their injury risk reduced by 31 percent.

If you are cited by law enforcement, you will be subject to a fine of nearly \$500.00 and one point on your driver's record for all children under age 16 who are not properly restrained in your motor vehicle.

The CCLD is developing an implementation plan for SB 929 as it may impact the current transportation requirements in the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, for all licensed children's residential facilities and homes. The California Child Passenger Safety Law, 4 Steps for Kids poster (PUB 269), is also being revised to reflect the change in law. The complete text of SB 929 can be viewed at the [State of California Legislative Counsel website](#).

A THANK YOU TO SERGIO RAMIREZ, CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

Sergio Ramirez, Children's Residential Program Administrator (PA), has retired after 32 years of state service, 30 of those years which were with CCLD.

In 1981, Sergio joined CCLD as a Licensing Program Analyst and was promoted in 1984 to Licensing Program Supervisor, a role in which he trained and mentored several staff. His skills and knowledge led him to be promoted to Regional Manager in 1990, where he first managed the Los Angeles Northwest Child Care Office, then moved to the Pacific Inland Regional Office for the Children's Residential Program. In 2007, Sergio became the Assistant Program Administrator for the Children's Residential Program and achieved the position of Statewide Administrator in 2009.

Until a new Children's Residential PA is selected, Mei Yuk Kung, Program Chief for the Children's Residential Program and Angela Valdez, Regional Manager of the Central California Regional Office, are alternating as acting PA each month. We wish Sergio the best in his retirement!



CONNECTING WITH A TEENAGER OR NON-MINOR DEPENDENT

Now that California has implemented extended foster care for non-minor dependents, it is timely to provide support to you in connecting with the teenager or non-minor dependent in your care. A fact sheet, "Connecting With Your Teen," offered through the Child Welfare Information Gateway, a resource provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, provides several tips that may be helpful.

A teen or non-minor dependent-age young adult may have traits that must be considered as you connect with them. In their quest for independence, they may question rules and authority, test limits, and be impulsive. Suggested activities that may reinforce your connection with the teenager or non-minor dependent in your care include:

- **Having regular family meals.** A regular weekly family dinner night could be planned that accommodates a teenager's or non-minor dependent's schedule.
- **Getting involved.** Go to games and other activities. Ask a teenager or non-minor dependent about homework, projects, and hobbies. When possible, get to know their friends and their parents.

- **Setting clear limits.** Involve a teenager or non-minor dependent in setting rules and consequences. Make sure consequences are related to the behavior, and be consistent with follow through.

You can find the complete “Connecting With Your Teen” fact sheet and other resources for connecting with a teenager or non-minor dependent-age young adult on the [Child Welfare Information Gateway website](#).



NEW SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME/STATE SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENT AND NON-MEDICAL OUT-OF-HOME CARE PAYMENT STANDARDS FOR 2012

New Supplemental Security Income /State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) rates become effective January 1, 2012. The new rates reflect a 3.6 percent federal cost of living increase to the SSI portion of the benefit. A chart showing the new estimated SSI/SSP payment standards, along with a second chart showing the new non-medical out-of-home care payment standards, can be accessed through the CCLD website at <http://cclld.ca.gov/res/pdf/11apx09.pdf> and <http://cclld.ca.gov/res/pdf/11apx10.pdf>. If you have questions regarding these new rates, please contact Cynthia Yates with the Adult Programs Division at (916) 651-0551.



REGULATIONS DOCKET

Children’s Residential Exceptions to Age 18 Regulations: The Children’s Residential Exceptions to Age 18 regulations have been approved by the Office of Administrative Law.

These proposed regulations clarify the exceptions in law that permit children to remain in foster care past age 18. These proposed regulations would eliminate the requirement for licensees to request exceptions. The proposed regulations are currently posted on the Office of Regulations Development website at <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/PG2699.htm>.

HELPFUL REMINDERS



Tax Assistance for Foster Parents

The National Foster Parent Association (NFPA) provides tax benefit guides for foster parents that describes basic rules and offers information on how foster parents can claim tax deductions and credits that may be available to them. As advised by the NFPA, foster parents should consult with their professional tax preparers to see which benefits they may currently qualify for. For more information, please visit the [NFPA website](#).



Extracurricular, Enrichment, and Social Activities for Foster Youth

Caregivers are reminded that children in foster care are entitled to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities. In permitting children to participate in these activities, caregivers must use the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard. For more information, please review the CDSS Information Release and All County Letter titled "Extracurricular, Enrichment, and Social Activities for Foster Children," which are both available on the CCLD website at <http://cclد.ca.gov/res/pdf/IR2.pdf> and <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acl05/pdf/05-39.pdf>.

CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE PROGRAM STAFF CHANGES

We are pleased to announce the following managerial appointments in the Children's Residential Care Program:

- Julie Darden, Licensing Program Manager (LPM) I, Northern California
- Claudia Guangorena, LPM I, Los Angeles Metro
- Dona Watters, LPM I, Chico



RESIDENTIAL CARE STATISTICS

All of the statistics for state and county-licensed Children's Residential Care facilities are available online. When you visit the CCLD home page at <http://www.cclد.ca.gov>, please click on the "Facility Facts" tab at the top of the page. Click on the "Licensing Statistics" link on the center of the page that appears. Then, click on the desired "State Licensed Facilities by Geographical Area" or "County Licensed Facilities" link on the center of the page. Directories can also be obtained from your local licensing office.

SUMMARY

If you have questions about this *Update* or proposed regulations, or suggestions for future topics, please contact Gloria Merk, Acting Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch at (916) 651-3456. Please visit our website at www.cclد.ca.gov to obtain *Updates*, office locations, provider letters, regulations, or to learn more about licensing services. Information about all Children's Residential facilities and homes, including Out- of-State Group Homes and the Statewide County Foster Family Home Program, is available on the CCLD website at <http://cclد.ca.gov/PG499.htm>.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Kathi Mowers-Moore for

JEFFREY HIRATSUKA
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division