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**CCLD INFORMATION RELEASE NO. 2008-04**

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Initiated by CCL

TO: CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM STAFF

SUBJECT: **FAMILY CONNECTIONS FOR FOSTER YOUTH, CARE PROVIDER TRAINING AND AGENCY REFERENCE CHECKS**

The new Family Connections and Personal Rights regulations became effective on August 8, 2008. These regulations were a result of Assembly Bill (AB) 1412, (Chapter 640, Statutes of 2005), AB 458, (Chapter 331, Statutes of 2003) and AB 2661 (Chapter 643, Statutes of 2004).

The following is a brief overview of the regulations:

- The regulations enhance the well being of children in out-of-home placement by making connections between foster care children and their family. The licensee shall permit and facilitate family connections which include non-relative extended family members, unless the relationship is restricted by the case plan adopted by the court or other court order. The connections may also include social contacts with people outside of the foster care system such as teachers, church members, mentors, and friends, unless prohibited by a court order. (Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16001.9) and (Title 22, Sections 83064(a)(10), 84068.2(e), 86068.2(e), 88068.2(e), 89378(d)).
- A foster family agency (FFA) application for certification will require an applicant to provide information specifying whether the applicant has been denied certification, or has been put on a placement hold by a county or FFA, or has been approved for relative placement, and if so, by which county (Sections 88001(p)(1), 88031(a)(1), (2) and (3)). Before certifying a family home, an FFA shall contact any FFA which has previously certified the applicant as well as any state or state licensing offices and shall request a reference check (88031(c)).
- If a FFA fails to provide (by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the following month) Community Care Licensing (CCL) with a log of certified and decertified homes, CCL will assess immediate civil penalties (Sections 80054, 88054(a)(1), (2) and (3)).

- Non-discrimination of applicants has been extended to include gender identity and HIV status. This applies to all children's residential licensing categories.
- Licensees shall ensure that caregivers receive initial and ongoing training regarding the children's personal rights to nondiscriminatory care. This provision impacts regulations for small family homes, group homes, the transitional housing placement programs, foster family agencies and foster family homes (Sections 83064(a) (10), (e)(1) and (2), 84065(i)(3)(S), 84165(f)(2)(C), 84090(h)(1)(H),), 84265(j), 86065(a)(3), 88022(a)(5)(B), 89405(b)(1).

Licensing staff may experience an increase in requests for regulation clarification from licensees who might be concerned as to how these newly enacted regulations affect their facilities. The CCL field staff must become familiar with these regulations which are available on the California Department of Social Services Website at the following address: <http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov>.

If you have questions about to the new regulations, please contact Jackie Shelley, Children's Residential Policy Analyst, (916) 323-2184 or [jackie.shelley@dss.ca.gov](mailto:jackie.shelley@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Original signed by Jo Frederick*

JO FREDERICK  
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Community Care Licensing Division