



CDSS

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# Children's Residential Care Update



Spring 2013



Winter 2012

Welcome to our combined Winter 2012/Spring 2013 *Children's Residential Care Update*. We are in the 22nd 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 find the topic of your choice in each *Update* without having to scroll down. Just go to the **Topic List** 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* can be viewed online at the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) website for the [Children's Residential Care Update](#).

## TOPIC LIST

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## DROP-SIDE CRIB USE TO BE DISCONTINUED

Effective **December 28, 2012**, a Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) ban on the use of drop-side cribs applies to any drop-side cribs used in children's residential community care facilities (CCF) and homes, including those that are also licensed as Family Child Care Homes. It is no longer permissible to use immobilizers from the manufacturer with existing drop-side cribs as this will not make them compliant. Any use of drop-side cribs in children's residential CCF and homes is to be discontinued.

As reported in previous issues of the *Children's Residential Care Update*, CPSC found that drop-side rails that caregivers can lower for easier access to babies can come loose from cribs and create dangerous "V"-like gaps between mattresses and side rails where babies can be caught. These malfunctions have contributed to the suffocation and strangulation deaths of at least 32 babies since 2000. Additional deaths have resulted from defective or faulty hardware.

The California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22 requires that children have the personal right to a safe, healthy, and comfortable home (CCR, Title 22 Sections [83072\(c\)\(9\)](#); [84072\(c\)\(14\)](#); and [89372\(a\)](#)) and to be safe, healthful, and comfortable accommodations, furnishings, and equipment that are appropriate to his/her age and needs. (CCR, Title 22, Section [86572\(a\)\(1\)](#)). It is also required that facilities and homes be safe (CCR, Title 22 Sections [80087\(a\)](#); [86587\(a\)](#); and [89387\(b\)](#)) and that licensees provide safe furniture (CCR, Title 22, Sections [84288\(a\)](#) and [86588\(j\)](#)).

With this ban now fully in effect, we advise you to replace any existing drop-side cribs that you are currently using for children in your care with fixed side cribs. If drop-side cribs continue to be used for children in your care, you may be cited by CCLD under the regulations for your facility or home that apply. To learn more about the ban on drop-side cribs, please visit the [Crib Information Center on the website for CPSC](#).

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## PLACEMENT OPTIONS FOR NONMINOR DEPENDENTS NOW INCLUDE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PLACEMENT-PLUS FOSTER CARE

We are pleased to advise you that, as a result of Assembly Bill (AB) 1712 and Senate Bill (SB) 1013 being passed into law, Transitional Housing Placement-Plus Foster Care (THP+FC) for nonminor dependents (NMDs) has now been added to these available placement options. THP+FC is a program that may be offered by transitional housing placement providers that is being licensed under the umbrella of the Transitional Housing Placement Program licensing category to provide:

- Safe housing for NMDs
- Assistance in developing the skills NMDs need for transitioning to independent living

- Supportive services based on the NMD's Transitional Independent Living Plan and Needs and Services plan as developed by the transitional housing placement provider

For more information about how CCLD is licensing transitional housing placement providers to provide a THP+FC program to NMDs, you are encouraged to contact your local licensing office or view the AB 1712 and SB 1013 Implementation Plan at <http://cclld.ca.gov/PG3063.htm>.

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## ASSEMBLY BILL 12 UPDATE

It has now been a year since AB 12, the California Fostering Connections to Success Act (Chapter 559, Statutes of 2010), began permitting NMDs to remain in foster care to pursue education or employment, or receive continued care if they have special health care needs. This article provides you with an update on the continuing rollout of this important piece of legislation.

### **Considering Placement Options**

Caregivers, young adults, and other caring adults may find it beneficial to have conversations about placement options, which span a continuum from foster family homes to group homes. A conversation about housing options might include:

- Exploring types of living options
- Factors to consider when looking at living options
- Comfort of NMDs in their current facilities and homes

A recent media story that discusses the choices young adults make and that may help guide conversations about remaining in care is available at the website for [Youth Radio](#). Another website that provides guidelines for conversations about housing options and other things to consider when thinking about remaining in care past age 18 is [After 18: Your Future, Your Choice](#).

### **Frequently Asked Questions and Training Resources**

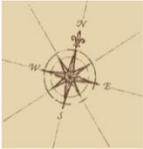
There are a number of online resources to assist you with learning more about the implementation of AB 12. These resources include:

- AB 12 Frequently Asked Questions that are being developed on an ongoing basis and are available on the CDSS website for [Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Extended Foster Care Benefits](#)
- Fostering Connections After 18 AB 12 training resources that are available on the California Social Work Education Center website at [Fostering Connections After 18 \(AB 12\) Training Resources](#)
- California Alliance of Child and Family Services (CACFS) information on AB 12 that is available on the CACFS website at [AB 12: Information on Extended Foster Care for Non-Minor Dependents](#)

## Interim Licensing Standards and Regulations

The CCLD Interim Licensing Standards to implement AB 12 continue to be in effect and have the force of regulations. Complete text of the Interim Licensing Standards is available on the CCLD website for [AB 12 Interim Licensing Standards for Non-minor Dependents in Foster Care](#). These licensing standards are being prepared to begin the process to become formal regulations.

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### IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

A summary and implementation plan for pertinent bills chaptered in 2012 that affect Children's Residential facilities and homes are available on the CCLD website. Unless otherwise noted in the summary and implementation plan, these bills become effective on January 1, 2013. Caregivers and licensees are encouraged to review these plans to ensure compliance with the provisions of these bills. If you have any questions, you are encouraged to contact your local licensing regional office. You can view the implementation plans on the CCLD website at <http://cclcd.ca.gov/PG3063.htm>.

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### TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR CALIFORNIA CHILD ABUSE MANDATED REPORTERS

All licensed Children's Residential facility staff and caregivers of children who have been subject to or are at risk of child abuse are mandated reporters of child abuse. As a mandated reporter, you are eligible to participate in California Child Abuse Mandated Reporter Training that is available online. This training is free of charge and funded by the CDSS Office of Child Abuse Prevention.

This training will count towards training requirements for children's residential facilities and homes [(CCR Title 22 Crisis Nurseries Regulations Section [86565\(g\)\(8\), \(s\)\(A\), and \(u\)\(2\)\(B\)](#)]; Foster Family Agencies Regulations Sections [88022\(a\)\(5\)\(B\) and \(C\)](#) and [88065\(a\)\(4\)](#); Foster Family Homes Regulations Section [89405\(a\)](#); Group Homes Regulations Sections [84065\(i\)\(3\)\(C\)](#) and [84265\(c\)\(2\)\(A\)](#); and Transitional Housing Placement Program Regulations Section [86065\(a\)\(1\)\(A\)](#)].

The CDSS online mandated reporter training is self-paced and provides an overview of definitions, requirements, and protections of the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act. When you take the online training, you will learn:

- How the law defines child abuse and neglect
- What the law requires of you as a mandated reporter
- What protections the law provides for you as a mandated reporter
- How to spot evidence of child abuse
- How to report child abuse
- What happens after a report is filed
- Definitions of some of the terms used in the training

It takes approximately three to four hours to complete the training. You will receive a certificate to print out when you successfully complete each training module. For more information and to register, please visit the website for [California Child Abuse Mandated Reporter Training](#).



## CHILDREN'S PRODUCT RECALL ALERT

Many items that children use or may be nearby in your facility or home have been recalled over the past few months. These items range from footed pajamas to home generators. For a full list in order to see if you have any recalled items in your facility or home, please visit the website for the [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#).



## HELPFUL REMINDERS

### Tax Assistance for Foster Parents

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



## CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE PROGRAM STAFF CHANGES

The Children's Residential Program wishes to congratulate the following staff on their recent new positions and wish them well with their new responsibilities:

- **Angela Valdez**, who was promoted from Central California Regional Manager to Program Administrator, Children's Residential Program
- **Jean Chen**, who was promoted from Los Angeles and Tri-Coastal Counties Regional Manager to Assistant Program Administrator, Children's Residential Program
- **Duane Matsubara**, who was promoted from Licensing Program Manager I in Fresno to Regional Manager in the Sierra Cascade Adult and Senior Care Program Office
- **Fernando Sandoval**, who was promoted from Manager of the Children's Residential Policy Unit to Policy Development Bureau Chief
- **Tom Stahl**, has a new position as Children's Residential Program Regional Manager, Northern California Regional Office
- **Michele Wong**, who was promoted from Northern California Children's Residential Program Regional Manager to Assistant Program Administrator, Adult and Senior Care Program



## 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.cclld.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.

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### SUMMARY

If you have questions about this *Update* or proposed regulations, or suggestions for future topics, please contact Lori Starnes, Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch at (916) 651-3456. Please visit the CCLD website at [www.cclld.ca.gov](http://www.cclld.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 [Children's Residential Facilities](#).

Sincerely,

***Original signed by Kathi Mowers-Moore for***

JEFFREY HIRATSUKA  
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