

Annual Evaluation of Licensed Foster Home

Family Name: _____

Completed jointly by license holder and licensing agency
MN Rule part 2960.3100, Subp. 1 (G) items 1-5

If you need more room, please feel free to use the backside or additional pages as needed.

1) Review all foster placements in the past year and assess the impact and outcomes of the placement on the child, the child's family, the license holder, and development and implementation of the case plan.

- List the names, ages, and approximate dates of children you have provided foster care or respite care for this past relicensing cycle.

- Did you feel you were given adequate information about the child to decide as to whether or not to accept the child into placement?

- Have there been situations that you have been contacted about that you have not accepted or were not a good fit? What factors went into your family's decision not to accept placement?

- Describe the needs and personalities of each of the children that you have provided foster care/respite for.

- Have you attended court hearing(s) for a child placed in your home? Did you feel you were kept informed of court dates? If so, did you have the opportunity to be heard during the hearing if you requested?
- Were visitation arrangements and/or scheduled appointments for the children mutually convenient? What level of involvement have you been able to have in the planning, scheduling and transportation for the children's appointments and visitation? Is it the level that you expected and want to have?
- How can our agency include/engage foster families more in taking an active role in planning, scheduling, and transporting children for appointments and visitation?
- Describe your satisfaction with services provided by the placement and licensing agency. Do you feel you have had adequate contact with the social workers? (Returned phone calls, keeping you informed, etc.) If there have been problems, have the workers been supportive and helpful? What can we do to support families better?
- Do you feel the workers have kept you informed about the placement plan, approximate length of stay and provided you a copy of the out of home placement plan? Do you feel that you understand everyone's roles and responsibilities as outlined in the plan?
- What lessons have you learned this past relicensing/update period?
- What positive or rewarding experiences have you had being involved in foster care during the past year?

2) Review any comments, suggestions, or concerns raised by the placing agencies and assess the implications for training and foster home policies and procedures.

- In your own words, describe your ability to work with the case manager(s) to development and implementation of the case plan.

- What are some ways that you as a family have learned how to support a child in your care?

- What are some ways that workers can best support a child in your care?
- Describe the best way for the case manager and your family to build and maintain good communication.
- If communication is not working, what changes would you identify that might be helpful?

- In securing a MAPCY rate for children in your home, do you feel the social workers accurately assessed the degree of care involved? Were you included in the assessment process?

- Have you received vouchers, payments, medical card information timely? Are you aware of the option to have reimbursement automatically deposited?

- It is recommended that foster families budget foster care reimbursement to meet the foster child's need for ongoing clothing, transportation, incidentals, and allowance. How does your family utilize the foster care reimbursement? Do you have a separate account for foster care?
- The agency recommends that families set aside \$100/month for the basic needs for transportation of foster children. Foster families often express that there is a great deal more transportation involved than they had initially anticipated. When you have had placements, how much transportation has your family provided compared to how much transportation the agency has provided? What are barriers to your family being available to being available to support a child's transportation needs for appointments?
- Have you utilized medical assistance reimbursable mileage for eligible appointments? If so, did the preauthorization and reimbursement process go smoothly?
- If a foster child were to need to move today, do you feel the child's wardrobe would include sufficient seasonally appropriate and well-fitting clothing? Would the child have sufficient personal items to help with a smooth transition?
- Have you gotten approval for an initial clothing allowance? What was the process that you and the worker went through to determine what the child's initial clothing allowance needs were? Did you feel that the initial clothing allowance was sufficient to address the child's immediate needs? If not, what could be improved?
- Have you utilized the resources from the Fostering Love/Foster Closet? If so, what have been your experiences in supplementing/meeting your foster children's clothing needs?

- Do you provide the foster child with a regular allowance/spending money? If so, describe your process. If you do not provide the foster child with allowance/spending money, please explain the process used in your home to help teach a child about money management, financial decision making and spending/saving choices.

3) Review any grievances, their outcomes, and assess the implications for training and foster home policies and procedures.

- Have you made any changes to your Grievance Policy, Chemical Use Policy, or Discipline Policy? If so, what led to those changes?
- If you have had any grievances or complaints made this past year, please explain what your understanding of the concerns were. Describe how those matters were resolved. In hindsight, would you have done anything different to have produced a different outcome?

4) Review the ability of the license holder to care for children

- What is important for workers to know about matching a child to your family?
- Please take a moment to review the enclosed Agreement Between Foster Parents and the Agency. Are there any areas of the agreement that you have questions or concerns that you would like to discuss?
- Have you questioned your ability to continue to meet the needs of any of the children presently in your care? What are your concerns?
- What kind of children do you feel you are best suited to care for/What kind of care do you want to provide?

5) Develop a plan for the next year's training and development.

- COVID opened doors to a vast amount of free training opportunities for foster families, yet families continue to struggle to meet the minimum yearly expectations. Why do you feel this continues to happen?
- Are you aware that foster families can receive credit for training they complete through presentations, speakers, workshops, therapy, webinars, podcasts, YouTube, books, videos, school meetings and more?
- Are you aware that the agency will reimburse families up to \$200/year for training expenses?
- Are you aware that DHS offers unlimited access to web based training through Foster Parent College?
- Do you belong to any foster care groups on social media platforms where other families may suggest resources that could benefit you? If so, who do you follow or subscribe to?
- Are you receiving AND viewing the agency's emails regarding foster care training opportunities?
- When you are struggling to meet a foster child's needs, how likely are you to seek out resources or do self-study to learn more about that child's needs?
- Do you feel that you are "trauma informed?" What does being "trauma informed" mean to you?
- How can the agency improve the way that we communicate with providers regarding training opportunities and training expectations?

- What recommendations or feedback have you received from the case manager or licensing worker about how to improve your skills or interactions with children or their families this past year? Were those suggestions helpful? Explain.
- Have you gotten all the required training hours in for this past year? (12 hours/year/provider are needed. 1 Hour of Children’s Mental Health and FASD is needed annually. SIDS/Shaken Baby and Child Passenger Safety is needed every 5 years) Please turn in training hours that you have accumulated thus far.
- What are barriers to training for you?
- Have you been to any training that you found particularly useful? Describe.
- If you are short of hours, what is your plan to make up the number of required hours?
- What changes have you made in based on either feedback from the placing agency or from training that you received?
- In what areas would you as a foster family want to grow or learn in this next year?
- Are there any particular training topics that you feel would benefit you? What would be the best way for you to obtain this new knowledge or skill?

6) Are there any other questions, concerns, issues you want to be sure to talk about at our meeting?

7) **During periods of hazardous weather has your family experienced severe weather or prolonged power outages.** If so:

- what did you learn about your emergency preparedness plans?
- What did you learn about your flashlight battery life?
- What did you learn about your cell phone battery life?
- How did you receive information about dangerous weather conditions?
- Did you act upon receiving notice of dangerous weather conditions?