

## Child and Family Services Licensing Policy Manual: Therapeutic Foster Care Licensing Procedure

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### Definition

A therapeutic foster home is a licensed foster home which, in addition to meeting all of the licensing requirements for a regular foster home, must meet additional requirements found in Admin. R. Mont 37.37.310. A provisional license may not be issued to a therapeutic foster home at the time of initial licensing.

Therapeutic foster parents, in addition to the usual family foster parent responsibilities, implement treatment strategies and provide treatment interventions under the supervision of the clinical director of the Therapeutic Foster Home Program (TFHP) with which they are associated.

Therapeutic foster homes are recruited and trained by staff of the TFHP. Staff of a TFHP completes the licensing study. The FRS supervisor approves or denies the licensing application of the therapeutic foster home applicant based on the review of the licensing material submitted by the TFHP and the recommendation by the TFHP.

**Note:** In addition to the individual licenses that are issued to each therapeutic foster home operating under a TFHP, the TFHP must be licensed as a Child Placing Agency.

### Intensive Training and Supervision

Therapeutic foster parents are expected to receive intensive training, supervision, consultation and support services from the staff of the TFHP to enable them to provide appropriate care and treatment for children whose problems cannot be addressed through regular foster care services.

In addition to the meeting the initial and annual training requirements for a regular foster home found in Admin. R. Mont. 37.97.1019, the therapeutic foster parents must receive a minimum of 15 hours of additional training annually, for a total of 30 hours of annual training. The additional 15 hours of training must be directly related to:

- the special needs of youth with emotional disturbances receiving treatment for their emotional disturbances in a treatment family environment; and
- the use of non-physical means of controlling youth to assure the safety and protection of youth and others.

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| <b>Restrictions</b>  | Therapeutic foster homes may only care for a maximum of two children who are receiving therapeutic services. Placement of the second child in the therapeutic foster home requires a written approval process that includes a sign-off by the appropriate FRS or FRS supervisor. (See sections 406-2 and 406-3 of the Children's Services Policy Manual for additional information.)<br><br>If a second placement is approved, the license will be increased to cover the care of two children. The approval is "child specific." When that child leaves the home, additional children cannot be served without a new "child specific" approval. |
| <b>Dual Licenses</b> | Youth not approved for therapeutic foster care may be placed in a therapeutic foster home which has a youth approved for therapeutic care when doing so: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• will maintain an intact sibling group;</li><li>• will maintain a parent-child relationship when the parent is a youth who has been approved for therapeutic care; or</li><li>• disruption of a child already placed in the foster home would place that youth at risk of medical treatment in a more restrictive environment.</li></ul>   |
| <b>CAPS</b>          | A therapeutic foster home must be issued a license under a license number issued to the individual provider not under the license number of the Therapeutic Foster Home Program with which they are affiliated.  |
| <b>References</b>    | Mont. Code Ann. §41-3-101<br>Mont. Code Ann. §52-2-602<br>Admin. R. Mont. 37.37.301 - 37.37.336<br>Admin. R.Mont.37.97.1001-37.97.1019   |