 VERMONT DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		90
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Approved:	Aryka Radke, Deputy Commissioner	Effective: 6/15/2023
Supersedes:	Family Services Policy 90	Dated: 5/2/2019

Definitions

Child Care: Licensed child care, registered child care, legally exempt child care, and unregulated care of children on a regular and continuous basis for compensation.

Child and Family Support Team: A team of professionals and non-professionals, including the worker, caregivers, parents, and youth that are collaborating to assist the family in meeting the goals of the case plan. Members of the child and family support team may also be members of the safety network.

Confidential Placement: A time-limited and rare situation where a protective order is sought and obtained, and the identities and location of a resource family is kept confidential from the child’s parents. Confidential placements are only considered if informing the parents of the child’s placement would compromise the safety of the child or foster/kinship family.

Family Foster Care: Foster care provided in a family home on a 24-hour basis.

- **Community Foster Care:** Family foster care provided by individuals who are not relative/kin or fictive kin.
- **Kinship Foster Care:** Family foster care provided by a relative/kin or fictive kin.


Fictive Kin: A person who has a relationship with a child that was established prior to division involvement.

Foster Care: The care of a child, for a valuable consideration, in a child care institution or in a family other than that of the child’s parent, guardian, or relative (33 V.S.A. § 4902). Foster care of a child to exceed 15 days must be licensed per 33 V.S.A. § 4905.

Foster Parent: A person licensed to provide family foster care; a person required by state law to be so licensed. The term “foster parent” is often used interchangeably with “resource parent” and “caregiver”.

Household Member: Any person, whether a family member or not, who lives, sleeps, or regularly utilizes the common areas in the foster home.

Kinship Care: The care of children by their relatives or fictive kin. When a child is in DCF custody, kinship caregivers must become licensed and trained.

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Kinship Foster Care: Family foster care provided in a family home on a 24-hour basis by a relative/kin or fictive kin.

Relative or Kin: A relative by blood, marriage, or adoption OR a person who has a relationship with a child that was established prior to division involvement.

Respite Care: Planned care intended to provide a break for the child or youth’s caregiver.

Safety Network: Family, friends, and community members who care about the child and are willing to take action to support the family and keep the child safe. They are willing to engage child protection staff and understand the concerns. A safety network may also include professionals.

Sibling: A child related by biological, marital, or legal ties (e.g., inclusive of step-siblings, half-siblings, and adoptive siblings).

Policy

The Department for Children and Families (DCF), Family Services Division (FSD) will provide out-of-home care for children and youth in DCF custody only in facilities licensed by the department, unless:

- The child is placed with a relative or other person the division has approved as a suitable placement for the child and who is in application for licensure as a foster home; or
- A child placing agency licensed by the department to approve foster homes has approved a foster home; or
- The placement is out-of-state and approved through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) or the Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ); or
- The placement is an independent school with a residential component approved by the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) or equivalent in another state.