

	<b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b>	
	<b>Chapter 12:</b> Foster Family Home Licensing	<b>Effective Date:</b> October 1, 2012
	<b>Section 19:</b> Waivers	<b>Version:</b> 2

<b>STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE</b>
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The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) may grant a waiver for a foster family home to be noncompliant with a specific rule or regulation, only upon approval from the Central Office Licensing Unit.

Waivers shall be granted only for rules and regulations and not for Indiana statutory requirements.

To receive a waiver, the applicant or licensee must provide proof that compliance with the rule or regulation would constitute an undue hardship and that noncompliance does not compromise the health, safety, and welfare of children.

The Central Office Licensing Unit has sole authority to approve or deny a waiver.

**Code Reference**

1. [IC 31-27-2-8: Granting of variances and waivers](#)
2. [IC 31-27-2-9: Expiration of variances and waivers](#)
3. [IC 31-27-2-10: Renewal of variances and waivers](#)
4. [IC 31-27-2-11: Revocation of variances and waivers](#)
5. [IC 31-27-4-12: Eligibility for waivers and variances](#)

<b>PROCEDURE</b>
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To request a licensing waiver, the applicant or licensee will submit documentation that:

1. Compliance with the rule or regulation specified in the application for the waiver will create an undue hardship on the applicant for the waiver; and
2. Noncompliance with the rule or regulation specified in the application for a waiver will not be adverse to the health, safety, or welfare of any child receiving services from the applicant for the waiver.

To request a waiver, the licensing worker<sup>1</sup> must:

1. Process the waiver request, including the documentation narrative, in the case management system; and
2. Submit the request for waiver to the Central Office Licensing Unit.

Upon receipt of the waiver request, the Central Office Licensing Unit will:

1. Review the request and ask for additional information, if applicable;
2. Approve or deny the request; and

<sup>1</sup> The licensing worker refers to the DCS Regional Foster Care Specialist (RFCS) or the Licensed Child Placing Agency worker

3. Notify the licensing worker of waiver approval or denial.

The licensing worker will notify the applicant or licensee of the approval or denial.

### **PRACTICE GUIDANCE**

Case by case waivers of non-safety related licensing requirements are permitted. An example of a safety related licensing requirement that **cannot** be waived is background checks. Common examples of non-safety related licensing requirements that can be waived include, but are not limited to:

1. Pre-service/in-service training (with the exception of RAPT 1);
2. CPR, Universal Precautions and First Aid (all or just one);
3. Square footage of bedrooms;
4. Bedrooms in a hall, basement or living area;
5. Children must have their own beds;
6. Reference letters; and
7. Licensing a married applicant without licensing his or her spouse due to spouse's physical absence from the household.

### **FORMS AND TOOLS**

N/A

### **RELATED INFORMATION**

#### **Expiration of Waivers**

Waivers granted or renewed will expire on one (1) of the following dates, whichever comes first:

1. Date when the license affected by the waiver expires;
2. Date set by the Central Office Licensing Unit for the expiration of the waiver; or
3. Occurrence of the event set by the Central Office Licensing Unit for the expiration of the waiver.

If a licensee violates a condition of a waiver, the licensing worker should contact the Central Office Licensing Unit for consultation on how to proceed. The Central Office Licensing Unit may recommend to the DCS Director or designee an order terminating the waiver before it expires.