

AIFACS
American Indian Family and Children's Services

Foster Parent Training Policy

The purpose of this policy is to meet the foster parent licensing requirements set forth by MN State Statutes, Ramsey County Contracts, and those of American Indian Family and Children's Services.

1. All professional foster care providers must have on record the required twelve hours each of professional training per calendar year from January 1 to December 31. Your first year of training will be AIFACS Orientation and Pre-service training. Training hours are not transferable from one year to the next, but exceptions can be made for foster parents who are behind on their training.
2. At initial licensing, within the first year, you must complete two hours of mental health training with material off an approved DHS training list. There are two videos on the AIFACS website with quizzes that will cover this requirement. After your first year of licensing, only one hour of the required annual twelve hours of training must be on children's mental health issues and treatment.
3. Child Passenger Restraint Training is required for foster parents or any caregivers that will be transporting a child nine years of age or younger and must be completed every five years. This training must be provided by individuals who are certified by the Department of Public Safety.
4. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Shaken Baby Syndrome Training is required for foster parents and any caregivers that assist in the care of infants or children age five years or younger and must be completed every five years. This training is offered by AIFACS.
5. Acceptable topics for training include, but are not limited to: Cultural competence and trans-cultural placements; Adoption and permanency; Crisis intervention, including suicide prevention; Sexual offender behaviors; Children's psychological, spiritual, cultural, sexual, emotional, intellectual, and social development; Legal issues including liability; Foster family relationships with placing agencies and other service providers; First aid and life-sustaining treatment such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); Preparing foster children for independent living; Parenting children who suffered physical, emotional, or sexual abuse or domestic violence; Chemical dependency and signs or symptoms of alcohol and drug abuse; Mental health and emotional disturbance issues; Americans with Disabilities Act and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; Caring for children with disabilities and disability related issues regarding developmental disabilities, emotional and behavioral disorders, and specific learning disabilities; Privacy issues of foster children; Physical and nonphysical behavior guidance, crisis de-escalation, and discipline techniques, including how to handle aggression for specific age groups and specific issues such as developmental disabilities, chemical dependency, emotional disturbances, learning disabilities, and past abuse; Birth families and reunification; Effects of foster care on foster families; Home safety; Emergency procedures; Child and family wellness; Sexual orientation; Disability bias and discrimination; Management of sexual perpetration, violence, bullying, and exploitative behaviors; Medical technology-dependent or medically fragile conditions; and Separation, loss, and attachment.
6. AIFACS maintains a library of training materials that foster parents can have access to during business hours. These materials include books, audio tapes, video tapes, DVDs and other information.
7. Two hundred dollars (\$200.00) will be provided for each foster family per year for professional foster care training. This money is available annually and is not transferable from one calendar year to the

next. This money may be used for conference registration fees or expenses incurred such as travel, hotel, or daycare.

8. Any training expenses must be authorized by your AIFACS licensing worker prior to purchase.
9. AIFACS will provide foster parents a professional membership to the Minnesota Foster Care Association (MFCA) to interested foster parents. You must contact your AIFACS licensing worker to become registered.
10. Foster care providers are required to keep a record of all training activities. Please keep a copy/description of the training and certificates of attendance, and provide your licensing worker with a copy of any certificates of attendance. A written review is required of any books or media training. In order to receive credit for trainings you attend, you must provide proof of attendance to your licensing worker.
11. Your AIFACS licensing worker will document your annual training compliance. It is the sole responsibility of the foster parent to contact their AIFACS worker of any circumstances that prove to make this compliance difficult. Your licensing worker is there to determine your training needs or assist you in locating resources.
12. Any foster family that lives beyond 50 miles of the AIFACS offices may develop alternative methods of training with their AIFACS worker. A special training agreement plan may be developed.
13. If an AIFACS foster parent does not complete the required training hours annually, the foster parent will be determined to be out of compliance with the Minnesota Department of Human Services licensing standards and may be sanctioned with a financial minimum fine of \$100.00, a correction order issued, and a hold placed on future child placements.

I understand the AIFACS foster parent training policy and will abide with all training requirements set forth in this standard.

Foster Parent

Date

Foster Parent

Date