

Licensed Foster Home Report Response

New Process Pilot



Agenda

Part 1:
Introduction to Pilot

Part 2: Pilot Policies and Assessment



Part 1

Introduction to Pilot





Learning Objectives



Describe purpose and goals of pilot.



Identify roles and responsibilities for the pilot site and Pilot Advisory Team.

Purpose of Pilot

- Implement a new approach to conducting Child Abuse and Neglect Institutional Reports that involve foster parents as the Alleged Perpetrator.

- Introduction of the Licensed Foster Care Assessment

- Clarify policies around Special Conditions Reports: Child-on-Child involving foster homes and Foster Care Referrals

Goals of Pilot

Improve the experiences of foster parents when a report of maltreatment by a foster parent is received.

Strengthen collaboration of DCF and system partners in the assessment of reports about foster parents.

Create a collaborative, well-coordinated process for assessing the Child Welfare System's support and management of a foster home that is the focus of a report.

- Includes a "Licensed Foster Home Assessment".
- Allows a test of alternative collaborative approaches among system partners.

Analyze the root causes of placement instability and effective system responses.

Type of Investigation Impacted by Pilot



Institutional reports on licensed foster homes

The Child Institutional Safety Assessment will continue to be completed on all institutional reports.

Pilot Site Locations and Time Period

Time Period:
May 2019

Onboarding Sites:
The remaining
counties in Central &
Suncoast.

Northeast &
Southern onboarding
dates TBD

Time Period:
October 2017-March 2018

Sites:

- Pasco County in Suncoast Region
- Polk, Highlands, and Hardee in Central Region
- March 2018 Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

Pilot Site Roles and Responsibilities

Role:

- Sites responsible for implementing the new policies and using the Licensed Foster Care Assessment when conducting Institutional Reports on Foster Homes.

Responsibilities:

1. Begin implementation planning activities.
2. Participate in a one-day pilot site orientation and planning meeting.
3. Pilot test the draft processes and draft template.
4. Participate in a qualitative review to be conducted by OCW and the stakeholder partners of a small sample of cases.
5. Participate in the pilot project wrap-up meeting.

Pilot Advisory Team Participants

Florida Coalition for Children - Licensing
Committee

Florida State Foster/Adoptive Parent
Association (FSFAPA)

Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI)

Regions: DCF Regional Managing
Directors, Family and Community Service
Directors, Points-of-Contact for Policy
Development

Office of Child Welfare: Practice Team,
Permanency Team and
Performance/Quality Management Team

Pilot Advisory Team Roles and Responsibilities

Role:

- Develop updated policies.
- Develop a new assessment for these reports.
- Update policies and assessment based on feedback from pilot sites.

Ongoing Responsibilities:

1. Participate in initial meeting of pilot sites to establish pilot objectives and communication plan.
2. Keep their respective organization updated.
3. Participate in regular statewide pilot conference calls to stay current with pilot experiences and findings.
4. Participate in the qualitative review.
5. Participate in pilot project wrap-up meeting to formulate findings and recommendations.

Part 2

Pilot Policies and Assessment





Learning Objectives



Describe the process for conducting Foster Care Referrals, Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse Reports in licensed care, reports on children in foster care when the allegations do not include a foster parent, and reports about children when the allegations do include a foster parent.



Identify each Child Welfare Professionals role in each process.



Explain the purpose and pieces of the Licensed Foster Care Assessment, 14-Day Staffing, and Foster Care Assessment Staffing.



Describe the purpose of the multi-agency team and each person's role on this team.

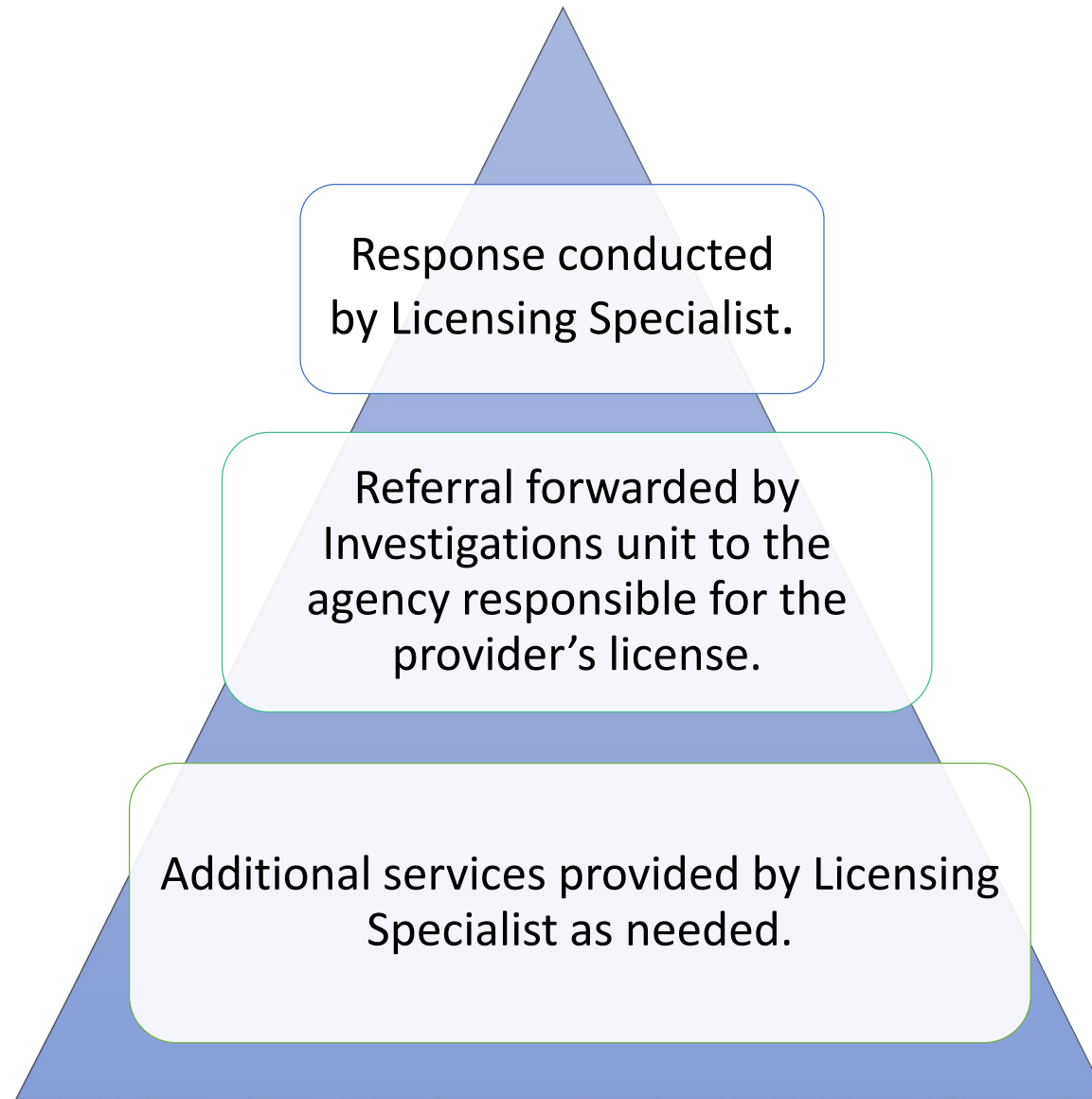
New Policies Guiding Pilot

Updated polices
developed by the
Pilot Advisory
Team.

Updates made to
Operating
Procedure 170-5
Chapter 28,
*Investigations
Response to
Intakes Involving
a Foster Parent.*

Created
Operating
Procedure 170-11
Chapter 9,
*Licensing
Response to
Reports Involving
a Foster Parent.*

Foster Care Referrals



Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse Reports in Licensed Foster Care





CPI Responsibilities

Consult with the licensing agency to determine both the agency's role and who will complete the interviews with the caregivers and children.

Consult with the Child Protection Team to determine if forensic interviews are necessary when juvenile sexual abuse is suspected.

Collaborate with the licensing agency in developing recommended actions if there are safety or supervision concerns.

Conduct an immediate on-site review of the home and circumstances.

Complete an assessment of child-on-child sexual abuse within 30 calendar days.



Licensing Specialist Responsibilities

Review provider record.

Communicate the information learned from the review to the person conducting the interviews before interviews are completed, if possible.

Meet with CPI and foster parent to discuss the results of the assessment and any necessary follow-up actions.



Child Welfare Professional Responsible for Interviews

Determine where child should be interviewed.

Gather foster parents account.

Explore and discuss foster parent's suggestion to remedy any problems.

Conduct inspections of the home.

Conduct collateral interviews to complete assessment as needed.

Reports about Child in Foster Care – No Allegations about the Foster Parent






CPI

<p>Conducts the investigation.</p>	<p>Notifies the licensing agency and Case Manager for the victim child of the report.</p>	<p>Coordinates the investigation with the victim child's Case Manager to determine if additional services are needed for the child or caregiver, or if a Child Placement Agreement is needed.</p>	<p>Keeps the foster parent and licensing agency informed throughout the investigation.</p>	<p>Within five days of closing investigation, informs the licensing agency and the foster parent of the results and documents notification in FSFN Case Notes.</p>
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Case Manager



Completes any follow-up actions to implement recommendations for the child.

Responding to Reports of Alleged Abuse, Neglect, or Abandonment by a Foster Parent





Commencement/Initial Visits

- Completed by CPI.
 - Can include other Child Welfare Professionals.
 - CPI is responsible for contacting Licensing Specialist or other specialist based on local protocol to coordinate the first contacts.
- Initial visit(s) with all child victim(s) are unannounced.
- Initial visit with the foster parent includes:
 - Provision of the Foster Parents Information Sheet
 - Explanation of the investigative process including the Licensed Foster Care Assessment
- Notify the child victim's parent(s)/legal guardian of report with pertinent information.
- Child Protection Team referral made when necessary.
- Immediate notification by the investigations unit to the agency responsible for the provider's license and the Regional Licensing Authority.



When to Involve Law Enforcement



Relocating Children in Response to the Report



- Decision to relocate must be determined on a case-by-case basis.



- Placement stability is highest priority unless CPI believes there is clear and compelling information that child safety is compromised.



- When child safety is not an issue, but the CPI or foster parent is concerned about a child remaining in the home, the CPI collaborates with the foster parents and the supervising agency to determine if the child can remain in home.



Additional Responsibilities during Investigation of Report: CPI

Lead professional responsible for the determination of safety and maltreatment findings

Coordinates all investigative activities with other agencies responsible for interviews with the foster parent(s)

Completes an Institutional

Assesses and documents the Present Danger Assessment

Licensed Foster Care Assessment

- Completed during a report involving alleged abuse, neglect or abandonment by a foster parent.
 - Does not replace the CSA. (Investigations will still be responsible for assessing the maltreatment and findings)
- Purpose is to determine if any child was maltreated by a foster parent(s) and to review the Child Welfare System's due diligence in licensing, placement, supervision, and support of the foster parent.
- Purpose is to determine if any child was maltreated by a foster parent(s) and to review the Child Welfare System's due diligence in licensing, placement, supervision, and support of the foster parent.
- Conducted by a Multi-Agency Team within 60 days from receipt of the Abuse Hotline report.
- Completed regardless of investigation findings, unless report is patently unfounded.



Licensed Foster Home Assessment Team Members

Child
Protective
Investigator

CBC Lead
Agency

Supervising
Licensing
Agency

Case
Management
Organization
(CMO)

Review of Licensed Foster Care Assessment

ASSESSMENT





Licensed Foster Home Assessment Team Responsibilities

Team Lead

Notify agencies that need to participate in assessment.

After initial commencement, provide the foster parents with names of all persons involved and each person's role.

Assist team members in determining what interviews are necessary and when more than one team member should be present during an interview.

Provide supportive communications with foster family during the investigation.

Discuss findings with foster parents. (Supervising agency representative also needs to be involved in discussion.)

Provide a status of the ongoing assessment.

Compile one preliminary assessment and share with team members for review ongoing assessment



Licensed Foster Home Assessment Team Responsibilities, cont.

Team

Conduct interviews and activities necessary to complete the assessment.

Document results.

Formulate recommendations.

Gather and document information for the assessment and submit documentation to the Team Lead.

Review preliminary assessment and identify discrepancies.

Types of Staffing's



14-Day Staffing



Foster Care Assessment Staffing



Discussion of Investigation Findings





14-Day Staffing

- Purpose is to provide the foster parent(s) with the following information:
 - Status of the investigation and other components of Licensing Assessment
 - Next steps and actions necessary to complete the Licensing Assessment
 - Suggestions or concerns that the foster parent may have
- Discretion on how and what information to share during staffing can be utilized when there are pending criminal charges, possible interference in the investigation, safety reasons, or it is not in the best interests of the child.



14-Day Staffing, cont.

- Staffing must be convened within 14 calendar days of the commencement of the Licensing Assessment.
- CPI and Licensing Specialist collaborate to determine who shall attend staffing.



Foster Care Assessment Staffing

- Purpose is to review and discuss all information gathered during the assessment.
 - Foster parents are invited to attend.
- The staffing will include the following information:
 - Review of information gathered and results determined by each agency
 - Establish next steps for assisting the foster parent as necessary
 - Identify any systemic issues that need to be addressed
 - During the staffing, next steps are documented based on agreements and all team members sign the completed assessment document.



Discussion of Investigation Findings

- Face-to-face meeting conducted by the CPI and Licensing Specialist to discuss investigation findings with the foster parent.
 - Meeting can be combined with Foster Care Assessment Staffing if the foster parent attends.
 - If requested by the foster parent, the meeting can be conducted by conference call.
 - If verified findings made, the CPI will explain to the foster parent he/she has a right to request a Department review of the findings (CFOP 170-16 Chapter 1).
 - Closure staffing must occur within 15 days from investigation closure.

Closure

- Final copy of the completed Licensed Foster Care Assessment is uploaded to FSFN on the Providers page.
- Final assessment distributed to the foster parents and all team members.
- Child's parents/legal guardians must be notified of investigation findings.