

Child and Family Services Policy Manual: Substitute Care for Children Types of Substitute Care

Types of Licensed Youth Care Facilities

Substitute care for children and youth is provided in various types of licensed Youth Care Facilities (YCF). A Youth Care Facility is a facility that is licensed by the Department and in which substitute care is provided to youth. The term includes youth foster homes; youth group homes (including shelter care) childcare agencies, transitional living programs, and youth assessment centers. The type of facility and related services should be selected on the basis of the youth's needs.

Youth Foster Home

A **Youth Foster Home** is a YCF in which substitute care is provided for one to six youth other than the foster parents' own children, stepchildren or wards. Youth foster homes provide substitute care for the majority of youth who cannot otherwise be assured adequate parental care in their own homes. These are youth, who can accept other family ties, participate in family life, attend community schools and live in the community.

The number of children that can be placed in the foster home is based in part on the number of children already residing in the home. Montana Admin. R. 37.51.203(2) determines that there shall be a maximum of seven children residing in a foster home at any one time unless an exception is made by the Regional Administrator.

NOTE: CFSD staff may not become newly licensed to provide foster-care for children in the Division's custody unless the employee is determined to be the most appropriate **kinship** placement for a youth.

If a person hired by the Division is a licensed foster parent at the time they are hired and have foster youth in the custody of the Division in their home, the individual may continue to be licensed until the youth have left their home. They may not accept placements of additional youth who are in the custody of the Division.

CFSD staff may not provide respite care for youth in the custody of the Division.

Kinship Foster Home

A Kinship foster home is a youth care facility in which substitute care is provided by a member of the child's extended family, a member of the child's or family's tribe, the child's godparent's the child's stepparents if the child is placed with the stepparent by the Division, or a person to whom the child, child's parent

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and family ascribe a family relationship and with whom the child has had a significant emotional tie that existed prior to the Division's involvement with the child or family.

Concurrent Family

A **Concurrent Family** is a kinship or youth foster home that has been specifically prepared to meet the challenges of working toward reunification of a youth with the birth family while simultaneously committing to becoming a permanent family for the child if reunification is unsuccessful.

A concurrent family is licensed or approved as a kin or youth foster home and must meet the requirements to become an adoptive or guardianship home.

Youth Shelter Care

Shelter Care is short-term, emergency foster care provided in a youth care facility. Shelter care should be used only as a temporary measure. A shelter care placement should not exceed 30 days. The Regional Administrator or designee may grant a 15-day extension.

Youth Group Home Therapeutic Youth Group Home

A **Youth Group Home** is a youth care facility in which substitute care is provided for 7 to 12 youth (or 4 to 12 youth in therapeutic youth group homes). The group home provides a homelike dwelling and environment for youth, using childcare staff as the primary caretakers.

The youth group home has characteristics of both youth foster homes and childcare agencies. Group home care is selected for youth whose adequate adjustment to family life is unlikely, but intensive residential treatment in a childcare agency is unnecessary.

A youth group home may be licensed as therapeutic when the program offers treatment services provided by in facility clinical and treatment staff.

Youth Shelter Care/Youth Group Home (Dual License)

Some facilities may be licensed as both shelter care and group homes. A **Youth Shelter Care/Youth Group Home** has the characteristics of both a shelter and a group home.

Youth placed in shelter care are limited to placements not exceeding 30 days. The regional administrator or designee may grant a 15-day extension.

In the event a youth is placed at the facility longer than allowed

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for shelter care placement the youth's placement will be reclassified as a youth group home placement. A Common Application must be completed and submitted to the facility at this time, if it was not submitted to the facility at the time of intake.

Child Care Agency	A Childcare Agency is a youth care facility in which substitute care is provided to 13 or more youth in a residential setting. Maternity homes are also licensed as childcare agencies.
Transitional Living Programs	A Transitional Living Program is a program with the goal of self-sufficiency in which supervision of the living arrangement is provided for a youth who is 16 years of age or older and under 21 years of age.
Youth Assessment Centers	A Youth Assessment Center is a staff-secured location that is licensed to hold a youth for up to 10 days for the purpose of providing an immediate and comprehensive community-based youth assessment to assist the youth and the youth's family in addressing the youth's behavior.
Special Types of Substitute Care Facilities Specialized Youth Foster Home	A Specialized Foster Home is a licensed foster home in which care and treatment is provided for youth who have special needs that cannot be adequately addressed in regular foster care. (Policy Section 406-1.)
Therapeutic Youth Foster Home	A Therapeutic Youth Foster Home is a private, nonprofit corporation under the direction of a board of directors and licensed as a child placing agency. A TYFH may contract with the Division to provide therapeutic foster care. The mental health managed care company governs admission to these homes. (Policy Section 406-2 and 406-3)
Community Homes for Persons with Developmental Disabilities	A Community Home for Persons with Developmental Disabilities is a family-oriented residence or home designed to provide care for two to eight persons with developmental disabilities.

References

Mont. Code Ann. § 41-5-1201
 Mont. Code Ann. § 52-2-601
 Mont. Code Ann. § 52-2-602
 Mont. Admin R. 37.51.102
 Mont. Admin R. 37.51.203
 Mont. Admin. R. 37.97.102
 Mont. Admin. R. 37.100.302