

FOSTER PARENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – PART 2

Changes to homes managed by B&L Resources

What is the difference between a licensing agency and a 3rd party managing organization?

Foster home licenses are issued by a mandated CFS agency. Only mandated CFS agencies can issue a foster home license.

A 3rd party managing organization provides foster home management and support on behalf of a CFS agency or the Department of Child & Youth Services. A 3rd party provider charges an administration fee to the CFS agency or the Department of Families for services such as completing home studies, ongoing foster home management and support, and coordination of family visits. The foster home license is issued by a mandated CFS agency that coordinates with the 3rd party provider to ensure that all requirements are met.

The majority of foster homes in Manitoba are directly licensed and managed by a CFS agency.

What is a placing agency?

A placing agency is the CFS agency that has guardianship of a child in care. This is the child's CFS agency.

Will I be required to complete new checks (Criminal record, child abuse registry etc.)?

Likely no. If the checks completed on yourself and any members of your household over the age of 18 are current and up to date, there is no need to complete new checks. The paperwork in your licensing foster care file will transfer to your new licensing agency once you have signed the Consent to Release Information.

What is the Consent to Release Information for?

This gives the licensing agency (mainly Winnipeg CFS) permission to release your licensing documents (annual reviews, checks, physical requirements checklist etc.) to the new licensing agency. This will allow the new agency to have your background documents and prevent the need to complete all the licensing requirements again.

What will happen with the other 3rd Party Foster Care Providers (MYS, Knowles, Marymound)?

At this time, this action is specific to the working relationship between B&L, the Department of Families and the CFS Authorities. It will not impact other 3rd party providers.

Can I transfer to another 3rd Party Provider?

We are encouraging foster parents to become licensed and managed directly by a CFS agency. This allows a direct relationship between foster parents and the agency that has children placed in your home.

There is nothing to prevent any foster parent from seeking a relationship with a 3rd party provider to manage their foster home. It will be at the discretion of the remaining providers whether they are accepting applications to foster for their organization.

If you should choose to foster for an alternate 3rd party provider, this would be considered a new license and those requirements would need to be met. Also, the CFS agency for the children placed in the home would need to be in agreement with any new proposed rate.

If I move to another 3rd Party Provider, would my foster care rate remain the same?

No, this would be considered a new placement under a new managing organization. The rates paid to foster parents and for support/respite would be evaluated and based on the fee structure of that organization. A new assessment of the child's needs and foster parent skills would need to be completed to determine the rate structure. The 60-day rate freeze would also not apply in this situation.

How will I receive payment for basic maintenance, fee for service, respite and support?

Once your foster home license is transitioned to the new licensing agency, you will receive payment directly from the CFS agency responsible for the care of the child placed in your home. Each agency will have their own process for payment (direct deposit, frequency, forms). You will be advised of the specific processes of the agency for the children within in your home as the transition occurs.

I have children in my home from more than one CF agency? How will this work?

Many homes have children from multiple CFS agencies. This is not unusual with 3rd party providers. A recommendation will be made for your licensing agency based on the CFS agency that has the majority of children placed within your home.

There is no intention to move children out of placements due to a change in licensing CFS agency. An agreement will be made between the CFS agencies that are licensing your home and those that already have children placed in your home. This will allow those children to remain in placement.

Will children change CFS agencies based on who licenses my home?

No, children will continue to receive CFS services from their culturally appropriate Authority/agency.

I have empty beds? How will these be filled?

Emergency placement beds will continue to be filled through the Emergency Placement Resources (EPR) unit during this process.

As homes transition to their new licensing agency, your foster home beds will be filled through that agency. Any vacant program beds can still be filled during the transition.

If a bed is filled in my home before the transition is complete, at what rate would I receive?

Any beds filled while your home is managed by B&L Resources will receive the established B&L rate.

What happens after the 60-day rate freeze?

CFS agencies will complete a Child Assessment to determine the individual needs of the child and how to support those needs. Based on the CFS agency's evaluation of needs, potentially a new rate could be established. CFS agencies will have the ability to increase or decrease support and respite hours based on the changing needs of the child. Fee for Service rates are paid based on the expectations of the foster parent (behaviour management, medical needs, education requirements, family visit plans) and the skill/education of foster parents (training completed, specialized skills).

You will be involved in this process with the guardian CFS agency and will provide input.

Who will support foster parents in establishing our new rates? Is there a process for negotiating?

A foster care worker will be assigned to your home. This worker will be responsible for supporting your home and will work with you during the rate assessment process. This will be a collaborative process between yourself and the CFS guardian agency. The goal is to ensure that the needs of the child are being met and the appropriate funding is provided to support the child.

What happens with the high needs' children (Level 4 & 5) that are placed in our home? Are CFS agencies hiring case managers?

These children will continue to be supported within your home. Each CFS agency will have staff to support your home. Each child should have a CFS worker assigned to them and each foster home will have a foster care worker. These workers will support the children and foster parents.

Are we able to meet with the new CFS licensing agency?

Yes! Your new recommended CFS agency will be reaching out to you. They will be able to answer your questions about their agency, their processes and training that might be available to you. This is a great opportunity to start to build a new relationship with your licensing/managing agency and share your questions and experiences with them.

Once I am licensed by my new agency, is that permanent or can I change agencies?

It is recommended that you develop a relationship and work with the new licensing agency as they will represent and provide culturally appropriate care for the children in your home. Foster parents have the right to apply to another agency to have their license transferred. The agency approached can choose whether or not your home is needed by them.