

**HB**

**175**

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1999 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 175

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: Requiring community notice of application for  
foster group homes.  
 Sponsor: Rep. Green  
 Requestor: House (HES)

Dept. Affected: Health and Social Services  
 BRU: Family & Youth Services Management  
 Component: Family & Youth Services Management  
 COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 2306  
 See also (SN#): \_\_\_\_\_

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING	FY2000	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGES IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (please specify)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY1999) cost: \$0.0

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill will have no fiscal impact on the Department if enacted.

*S* 4/7/99

Prepared by: Theresa Tanoury  
 Division: Family & Youth Services  
 Approved by Commissioner: Karen Perdue, Commissioner  
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

Phone: 465-3191  
 Date/Time: 4/6/99 10:02 AM

Date: 4/7/99

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4/8/99

HB 175

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

I'd like to thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 175 which will allow communities all throughout the state to be notified of the establishment of FGHs in their neighborhoods.

My name is Sonia Vasconi. I come before you as a parent, a neighbor and a concerned citizen.

Let me start this testimony by giving you some basic background regarding FGHs as I see it.

The idea behind the establishment of FGHs was well intended. Keeping large group of siblings together was logical & thoughtful.

However, what FGHs have become resembles little of what they <sup>were intended to be</sup> ~~were~~ ~~intended~~.

Today, a single FGH parent can care for up to 8 or more unrelated children in a home. These children <sup>can potentially</sup> ~~usually~~ present severe mental dysfunctions such as sexual predatory behavior, arsonist tendencies and <sup>aggressive behaviors</sup> ~~aggressive behaviors~~. Some or perhaps all of them have "wrap around services"

which provides these children with psychological and social services at home or at other facilities.

These facts and the increased traffic from social workers, relatives, friends and the police have a tremendous impact in neighborhoods surrounding FGHs.

\* This situation creates frustration among those of us who try to do the right thing. We abide by the laws, faithfully pay our taxes & try to raise our children the best we can by, among other things, living in the safest neighborhood we can possibly afford, sometimes w/ sacrifices.

Suddenly, we find ourselves dealing with safety issues we didn't previously have and nobody took the time to inform us about. And <sup>when</sup> we tried to inform ourselves we found that the system is arrogant and answers are vague and misleading.

We are expected to embrace these programs in our neighborhoods when we don't even know what they are all about.

Additionally, foster parents find themselves ~~in~~ a kind as well. Sometimes, they, themselves, don't know enough

about the children they are supposed to care for. And when safety issues arise they are limited by what they can say or do. This adds more confusion to the whole situation.

Ignorance creates suspicion. Let's put the issues on the table at our community councils. That's what they were created for.

House Bill 175 is the least a community should be entitled to have: the right to be notified.

This bill encourages communication and creates a balance between the needs of FGHs and the communities that they are dependent on for the success of these programs

Thanks again Mr. Chairman and members of this committee for introducing legislation that assists both foster parents and the communities in addressing the needs of foster children.

I ~~will~~ respectfully encourage you to support and help this bill be enacted into law.

I'll be glad to answer any questions you may have.

## Foster Group Homes Questions and Answers for Applicants and Division Staff

Why did the division add foster group homes to licensing regulations?

MAC. 50.415

- Regulations will ensure consistency in addressing space and supervision in foster homes formerly operating under waivers that allowed them to care for more than three foster children.
- Regulations will continue to address children's placement needs identified in former regulations
  - keeping siblings together and
  - ensuring continuity of care for a child, including placement with a relative, when feasible.
- This will be accomplished by converting foster homes with large numbers of children to group foster homes and licensing new applicants for large numbers of children as group foster homes rather than using a variance.
- Regulations will allow the development of foster homes where more than three foster children may be in care to meet specific placement needs identified by the division:
  - group homes for adolescents preparing for independent living;
  - group maternity homes for pregnant and parenting teens; and
  - other group homes only on regional administrator initiative or approval.

What is the difference in definition?

- "foster home" has the meaning given in AS 47.35.900, ["foster home" means a place where the adult head of household provides 24-hour care on a continuing basis to one or more children who are apart from their parents;] usually for no more than six children;
- "foster group home" means a foster home in which one or more foster parents operate not more than one group home for no more than eight children;

What extra regulations must a foster group home meet?

- One year of foster care experience with no more than two foster children in care.
- No more than eight children may reside in a foster group home. Of the eight,
  - no more than two children under 30 months of age are permitted; and
  - up to eight children who are unrelated to the foster parent are permitted.
- If more than six children are in care, one foster parent must generally be available in the home.
- A foster group home shall provide at least
  - 35 sq. feet of usable indoor space per child, exclusive of hallways, bathrooms, storage areas, office space, furnace and laundry rooms, crib space, and any area children are prevented from using; and 75 square feet of outdoor recreation space per child for the maximum number of children outside at any one time...
- A foster group home shall provide at least
  - 70 square feet per child in a single resident bedroom;
  - 50 square feet per child in a multi-resident bedroom;
  - a bedroom ceiling height of at least 6.5 feet if bunk beds are used;
  - one bedroom for every four children in care; and
  - one full bathroom for every six children in care.
- If a group foster home has more than five foster children in care, a fire safety inspection is needed. We expect a "Group R. Division 4 Occupancy from the UBC will apply. That is a residential group care facility for ambulatory, nonrestrained persons who may have a mental or physical impairment (each accommodating more than five and not more than 15 clients or residents, excluding staff)."

**Will the division give a variance for a regular foster home to be able to accept a fourth foster child for care or will the home need to convert to a foster group home?**

- The division needs to be consistent in applying the rules statewide to meet the intent of creating the group home category.
- A foster home would be converted to a foster group home for the period that the home provides care for more than three foster children or for more than six children total, including children of the foster parent. A new (one page) application would be needed.

**Will the division give a variance for any of the group home requirements?**

- A variance is always possible if there is an alternative method of meeting the safeguarding intent of a requirement or if the home is a relative foster home.

**What if an applicant wishes to apply to care for eight children ages three to ten years old?**

- The needs of children in state custody rather than the skills or interests of applicants will determine resource development and use.
- The applicant is to be informed of the division's resource need as stated in the beginning of this flier.
- The division would not place more than three children in a home licensed in that age range.

**Is the division concerned about allowing more than six children in care (three in foster care) when the division reduced the number of children allowed in care in 1990 to address poor care in foster homes?**

- Yes, however the division determined that a group home category would meet the specific needs stated in the beginning of this flier.
- Administrators, placement workers and licensing representatives should articulate that need to applicants and should honor the intent. Policy statements are being drafted for the manuals.

**Must a group foster home applicant agree to care for the maximum of eight children?**

- No. An applicant may request the full number or any lower number based on their wishes and the type of placement need the division has requested the home to meet.
- Applicants also consider family circumstances, training, experience, skill, space etc.

**What are examples of group foster homes that exist or might be recruited?**

- An applicant may have three children of their own and be applying to care for a sibling group of four more children who are friends of the family. The total is seven.
- An applicant may have six children of their own and be applying as a relative foster group home for one more child. The total is seven.
- An applicant with no children of their own might request licensure for five children, rather than eight. There are currently at least two highly skilled foster homes where both foster parents are generally available in the home. These homes specialize in meeting specific treatment needs such as sex offender treatment. These homes were recruited or approved by a regional administrator.
- An applicant with one adolescent might request to care for four or five additional adolescents in a program that emphasizes independent living skills.
- Experienced foster parents in a large city have been recruited to be a "stand-by" foster homes licensed for four children placed in emergency shelter care for only two or three days per child placed. The creation of these specialized homes were regional administrator initiated.
- An applicant may be applying to provide prematernal/maternity care for three pregnant or parenting teens. Infants of the teens will be counted resulting in up to six children in the home.

September 1, 1998

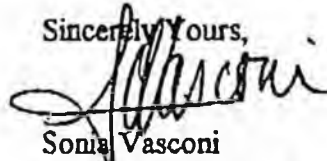
Representative Joseph Green  
Room 118  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Green:

We appreciate all your help regarding the Foster Group Home in Oceanview. Attached is a report which summarizes events and issues surrounding the 311 Bree Ave. facility. I thought this report would be of help to you as you take up these issues with other policy makers in the upcoming Legislative session. I also want to thank you for meeting with Bree Ave. neighbors in early August; I regret that I could not attend that meeting as I was Outside on vacation. I gather it was a very good meeting for all who attended.

I look forward to working more with you on these issues in the upcoming months. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (907) 345-8830.

Sincerely Yours,



Sonia Vasconi  
Bree Ave. Neighborhood Group

### Issues Regarding Foster Group Homes in Neighborhoods

During this past April, residents of Bree Ave. in Anchorage learned that a Foster Group Home was established at 311 Bree Ave. This Group Home, and events related to it, raised a number of general concerns that have generated neighborhood interest. These concerns are:

- Neighborhood safety
- Municipal zoning regulations
- DFYS' lack of assistance

Since April, Bree Ave. residents have brought these general issues to public officials at both the State and Municipal levels and have yet to reach any resolution. Therefore, we feel it is important to summarize events around these concerns and present them as a package to various public officials and interested parties who need to be involved in these issues. While we are specifically presenting these issues relative to the situation encountered with the Bree Ave. Foster Group Home, these three general issues are potentially present in many Foster Group Homes throughout Anchorage and Alaska. Consequently, it is important to address these issues broadly and consider some of the policies surrounding them. Hopefully, you will be able to use the resources you have to help balance the needs of foster children with neighborhood concerns.

#### Neighborhood Safety

DFYS' licensing of the Foster Group Home at 311 Bree Ave. immediately raised a number of safety concerns among neighbors since there are approximately 15 children (most under the age of 12 years old) on Bree Ave., plus a number of other children residing on an adjacent street, Pacific View. The Group Foster Home is also next to Johns Park which is enjoyed by many families with children who may not live in the immediate vicinity. Given the number of small children in the area, the neighborhood was immediately concerned that potentially dangerous foster children (e.g. Emotionally disturbed children) may be placed in the foster home. As Stephen McComb, a DFYS representative, indicated at a neighborhood meeting in May that placement of foster children with sexual aggression, or anger management problems in the Bree Ave. facility, with its proximity to neighborhood children and a park is "setting them (Foster Children with these particular problems) up for failure."

Despite DFYS' acknowledgment that the location carried risks to both foster children and other youngsters, a foster child was placed there who, early on the morning of July 6 was apprehended by Anchorage police after he chased his Foster Parent out of the house and threatened him with grave harm. Details around this incident are sketchy due to confidentiality requirements, however, the neighborhood learned that the foster child had snuck away from the Foster Home for at least three hours without the knowledge of his foster parent. It is not clear where the child may have wandered during

his absence from the house. The more basic concern is that on the night of the incident the child was away from the Foster Home for a substantial period of time without the Foster Parent's knowledge.<sup>1</sup>

There have been reports of other incidents at the Bree Ave. Foster Group Home that have required the assistance of the Anchorage Police Department: *A Disturbance* on June 4, 1998 and another *Assault* on August 22-23, 1998. The nature of the incidents and the frequency of police visits to the Foster Group Home translates to a level of risk that is unacceptable for neighborhood safety.

### Municipal Zoning Regulations

In any discussion regarding placement of Foster Group Homes, Zoning requirements become a critical factor. In fact, 7 AAC 50.500 states the following:

"A license is issued or denied on the basis of the applicant's compliance with the requirements of AS 47.35 and this chapter. *The enforcement of local ordinances, such as zoning regulations and local building codes, is the responsibility of local officials.*" (Emphasis added)

It is clear that 7 AAC 50.500 references local ordinances and leaves enforcement responsibilities with local officials. When Bree Ave. residents looked to local zoning requirements we found some interesting facts. We started our review of zoning regulations with Anchorage Municipal Code, Title 21.40.030 which addresses R-1 and R-1A single-family districts. This initial review centered on whether or not Foster Group Homes required a conditional use permit. This review focused on a category of use known as "Quasi-institutional houses" ("QIH"). Further review indicated that Foster Group Homes do not fall under the *present* definition of QIH and, in fact, fall under the definition for "Family Residential Care" which does not require a permit. This legal "placement" has not always been the case and was changed to its present arrangement during the 1986-87 time frame as part of the work completed by the Child Care Task Force. Prior to the Child Care Task Force Ordinance of 1987, child care facilities housing more than 5 children were considered commercial uses and only found in commercial districts. Under the requirements then in place, Foster Group Homes were QIHs and required a conditional use permit. Therefore, prior to the Child Care Ordinance, a Foster Group Home was viewed as a commercial enterprise which required a permit (and likely public hearing process).

With the proliferation of neighborhood Foster Group Homes funded by public money, the time has come for the municipality to take up this issue again and either

<sup>1</sup> Apparently, the Foster Parent was not aware of the child's absence until the child attempted to get back into the house when a motion detector was activated. For further background around this incident. See Attachment 1, Anchorage Daily News article published on July 10, 1998.

revert to the previous handling of Foster Group Homes (under the umbrella of a QIH) or designate a new separate classification that explicitly requires the approval of neighborhoods that are affected by its placement.

While it may not be acceptable in some circles to view Foster Group Homes as commercial enterprises, substantial public money is spent to support not only the children, but also the mortgages taken on the houses in which they are placed as well as the primary caregivers. In fact, a case can be made that payments to caregivers amount to subsidies that provide caregivers with the incentive to accept either the maximum number of children allowed by State regulations or those children who have problems that carry the greatest funding. Some of the children found in the 311 Bree Ave. house are designated as Emotional Disturbed and carry greater funding than those who do not carry that designation. The end result of this system is a patchwork of revolving-door facilities (that some neighbors have characterized as "mini-orphanages") in which placement is driven by the financial need of the foster parent more than by the needs of the children. This is the perverse result of well-intended subsidies that have the potential to be "gamed" by foster parents who may see the opportunity for financial gain. While this may not be true in the majority of Foster Group Homes, it is naive to ignore the possibility that a Foster Parent's financial requirements may translate into a willingness to accept more children with more difficult needs than they can actually care for in a responsible manner. The financial incentives in place can lead to an escalation of risk that is actually born by Foster Parents, Foster Children and neighborhoods. Eventually, the welfare of all three groups may be compromised because of the need to get the highest stipend available to support the infrastructure needed to provide care to six seriously disturbed children.

One way to insure that this "escalation of need" does not occur is to place more stringent limits on the number of foster children allowed in a Foster Group Home. Presently, the limit for a facility like the one at 311 Bree Ave. is 6 children. A more appropriate ratio for a Foster Group Home may be one emotionally disturbed child per single foster parent or two emotionally disturbed children per married couple and emotionally disturbed children cannot be co-mingled with foster children who have not been classified as such.<sup>2</sup> We also believe that the city needs to greatly restrict the use of neighborhood Foster Group Homes that are used as emergency placement facilities for emotionally disturbed children. If the municipality is unable or unwilling to incorporate changes such as these into the zoning ordinances, then the municipality should revert to pre-Child Care Ordinance requirements which classified a Foster Group Home as a commercial enterprise requiring a conditional use permit.

#### DFYS' Lack of Assistance

One of the most frustrating aspects of this situation has been the difficulty we have had in getting information from DFYS. No matter what type of information we requested,

<sup>2</sup> It is important to note that neighbors are only addressing Foster Group Homes that are used to house youths who are emotionally disturbed, have anger management problems or are sexual predators.

DFYS has been slow to respond. Whether it be a request for general information on Foster Group Homes or for information on the qualifications of the Foster Parent at the Bree Ave. facility, DFYS has consistently been unresponsive. In fact, DFYS was reluctant to listen to our concerns until a teleconference in late April, 1998 which was attended by Bree Ave. residents, Representative Joe Green and Mr. Russ Webb, Deputy Commissioner of DHSS. As a result, another meeting was arranged through Rep. Joe Green's office and DFYS sent two representatives to a neighborhood meeting that was held on May 8.<sup>3</sup>

At the May 8th meeting, neighborhood concerns were aired with Stephen McComb and Gwen McAlpine of DFYS. Mr. McComb and Ms. McAlpine gave their personal promise to not place children in the Bree Ave. Foster Group Home who were either sex offenders or had anger management problems. While this promise indicated good will, the apparent limit of DFYS' oversight regarding child placement restricts the actual effectiveness of this promise. The limit of DFYS' placement authority is implied by an August 4, 1998 letter from Mr. Webb to Rep. Green. In that letter to Rep. Green Mr. Webb indicates that "... it is important for you to know that the child involved in the incident (*the July 6 assault*) was neither in the custody of nor placed in the foster home by a state agency." (See, Attachment 3) This statement is particularly disturbing since we were under the impression that DFYS would be the only entity that approved the placement of foster children in the Bree Ave. Foster Group Home. If it is indeed true that other entities may use the Bree Ave. facility, DFYS acting alone cannot insure that emotionally disturbed foster children will not be placed there. From Mr. Webb's statement one can infer that DFYS does not have the ability to know the particular profiles of all children who are housed in a facility that DFYS licenses. The possibility of "mixing" profiles without DFYS' knowledge implies an unfortunate lack of control which leads to situations where children of varying needs and temperaments are assigned to facilities licensed by DFYS without DFYS' coordination. Rather than expecting the neighborhood to rely on DFYS promises, the preferred alternative is to implement more stringent licensing and placement requirements (e.g. lower child-to-foster parent ratios and low risk type of children) in neighborhood Foster Group Homes, at least for the moment.

We were also frustrated with DFYS' statements made to the regarding the assault incident of July 6. In comments made to the Anchorage Daily News, Linden Staciokas, acting DFYS regional manager, indicated that she considered this incident "closed" (See, Attachment 1). While she may believe that the incident is "closed" it remains "open" for those of us who live in the neighborhood. Especially when one considers the nature of the incident and the fact that in the five months since the Foster Group Home has been operating, police have intervened on at least three occasions, two of which were assaults.

<sup>3</sup>See Attachment 2; May 4, 1998 letter from Russ Webb, Deputy Commissioner, DFYS to Honorable Joe Green. One should also note that in this letter, Mr. Webb indicated that DFYS committed to review three particular areas of neighborhood concerns: 1) Staffing ratios and supervision requirements; 2) Training requirements for Foster parents; 3) information on foster homes that can be shared with the community in which they are placed. As of the date of this writing, DFYS reviews on these topics have not been completed.

The statement by Ms. Staciokas does little to engender public confidence in DFYS' willingness or ability to address public concerns.

### Conclusion

The situation at 311 Bree Ave. has caused neighbors to have concerns in three areas: Neighborhood safety; Municipal zoning; and DFYS' lack of assistance. We are specifically concerned about the following issues:

- 1) Allowing Foster Group Homes to be placed in a neighborhood without public notice and a conditional use permit;
- 2) The ratio of emotionally disturbed Foster children to foster parent;
- 3) The use of Foster Group Homes as a temporary facility which increases the number of emotionally disturbed Foster children in a household;
- 4) The nature of incentives which promote the placement of greater numbers of foster children with more demanding emotional needs into neighborhood Foster Group Homes;
- 5) The possibility that DFYS is not the only entity that can place children in Foster Group Homes;
- 6) The levels of training (vs. an orientation) required for Foster parents who are running Foster Group Homes.

Resources need to be made available to provide a complete assessment of policy options which are available to Municipal and State authorities. However, as recent events have proven, the existing situation at 311 Bree Ave. is far from satisfactory for the neighborhood and quite possibly, the Foster children. Reliance on neighborhood-based Foster Group Homes may have been an attractive idea when they were first embraced as a way to place "sibling groups" in one household, but recent events have prompted questions that need attention and new solutions. While some may feel it is too early to embrace any specific "fix", prompt action is required to insure that situations such as that found on Bree Ave. do not result in physical harm to neighborhood residents or other foster children. Lowering child-to-parent ratios for emotionally disturbed children may be a first step to insure more adequate care and safety, however, policy makers should also objectively examine the possible use of orphanages as a way of housing foster children with severe emotional needs. While there has been a movement away from orphanages, they may offer the ability to pool limited financial resources, focus rehabilitative efforts, and monitor program effectiveness in a more comprehensive manner.

Hopefully, we can work together to achieve a balance between the welfare of Foster Children and the neighborhoods who are being asked to bear risks that had not been previously assumed. The problems encountered in adequately caring for the needs of

emotionally disturbed children require a rational discussion between all who play a direct role in promoting the well-being of all children.

Respectfully Yours,

Bree Ave. Neighborhood Group

# Alaska State Legislature

WHILE IN SESSION  
CAPITOL BUILDING  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182  
(907) 465-4931  
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BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEES  
ALASKA COURT SYSTEM  
DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
DEPT. OF REVENUE

## Representative Joe Green

District 10  
House Majority Leader

### Sponsor Statement

#### **HB 175 – Notification of Foster Group Home**

HB 175 requires the Department of Health and Social Services to notify a community council if they receive an application to establish a foster group home in the community council area.

The bill establishes a “foster group home” as a foster home in which one or more foster parents operate, on a 24-hour basis, a facility for four or more children who are living apart from their parents.

## FOSTER GROUP HOMES STANDARD BY STANDARD EVALUATION

This is a supplemental standard by standard to be used as well as the foster home standard by standard when evaluating applicants for a foster group home license.

The foster group home applicants must be in compliance with all foster home standards -documented in 06-9371.

Foster Parent(s):

Licensing Representative Signature:	Date															
<p><b>50.415 Supervision of Children in Foster Homes</b></p> <p>(a) During the first year of license, no more than two unrelated children</p> <p>(c) No more than 8 children may reside in a foster group home. Of the 8,</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(1) no more than 2 children under 30 months;</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(2) except as provided in (a) of this section, up to 8 children who are unrelated to the foster parent are permitted</p> <p>(d) If more than 6 children are in care, one foster parent must generally be available in the home</p> <p>(e) The Division will establish the number of children for whom a foster group home is licensed on a case by case basis</p>	<p>How many years of licensed care has this foster home provided?</p> <p><b>License</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20%;"><b>Capacity</b></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20%;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20%;"><b>Ages</b></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20%;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20%;"><b>to</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"># of own children</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"># of own under 30 months</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Name of foster parent generally available:</p> <p>What days &amp; hours is parent in the home?</p>	<b>Capacity</b>		<b>Ages</b>		<b>to</b>		# of own children					# of own under 30 months			
<b>Capacity</b>		<b>Ages</b>		<b>to</b>												
	# of own children															
	# of own under 30 months															
<p><b>50.510 Life and Fire Safety</b></p> <p>(a) Standards for life and fire safety administered by the Dept. of Public Safety apply to:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(2) foster group homes providing 24 hr. care for more than 5 children</p> <p>(c) A foster group home with 5 or fewer meets the applicable life and fire safety standards in the foster home SXS.</p>	<p>If more than 5 unrelated children, a fire inspection is requested to assure the home meets the applicable requirements for fire safety under Group R</p> <p>Fire Inspection report on file?</p>															
<p><b>50.530 Space</b></p> <p>(a) A foster home must have indoor and outdoor space to meet the needs of children in care</p> <p>(b) A foster group home shall provide</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(1) 35 sq ft. per child of usable indoor space</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(2) 75 sq ft. per child of outdoor recreation space</p> <p>(c) Parks or other outdoor locations may be used if easily accessible and a plan for use is approved by licensing worker</p>	<p>Diagram of home showing sq. ft. and designated areas is on file. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>															

(d) A foster group home shall provide		
(1) 70 sq. ft. per child in a single resident bedroom		
(2) 50 sq ft. per child in a multi resident bedroom		
(3) bedroom ceiling height of 6.5 ft. if a bunk bed is used		
(4) one bedroom for every 4 children		
(5) one full bathroom for every 6 children		

Narrative summary and recommendations. Include the adequacy of furniture and supplies for the number of children to be licensed. Include a description of the outdoor space and/or a description of any nearby parks.

**FOSTER HOME  
 STANDARD BY STANDARD EVALUATION  
 7 AAC 50.005 - 7 AAC 50.990**

Foster Parent(s):	
Licensing Representative Signature:	Date:
Agency:	Field Office:
Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Home <input type="checkbox"/> Employees (Add 06-9050) <input type="checkbox"/> Group Home (Add 06-9049)	
Division Approved Specializations: (Check any and all that apply.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Shelter Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant and Parenting Adolescents
<input type="checkbox"/> Supervised Transitional Living	<input type="checkbox"/> Boarding Care
Dates of facility visits: (Note if scheduled or unscheduled)	Persons interviewed:

Relative Care Variance	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Supervisor Approval of Relative Variance
Documented in SxS	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Signature:

<u>Reports, Forms Documents on File</u>	
<u>Provisional</u>	<u>Biennial Renewal</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Application for License 06-9162	<input type="checkbox"/> Application for License 06-9162
<input type="checkbox"/> Clearance for License (all adults) 06-9437	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearance for License
<input type="checkbox"/> Fingerprint Cards (adults in home)	<input type="checkbox"/> Review Information 06-9390
<input type="checkbox"/> Background Information 06-9389	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan for Foster Care 06-9045
<input type="checkbox"/> Plan for Foster Care 06-9045	<input type="checkbox"/> Fingerprint Cards (new adults in household)
<input type="checkbox"/> Plan Reduction 2nd Hand Smoke 06-9444	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-Monitor Report is on file
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Evacuation Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Variance Request(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Three (3) Positive References	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan of Correction (if applicable) DO84-LIC-12
<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Release, if requested	<input type="checkbox"/> Training Hours Reported
<input type="checkbox"/> Well Water Results, if needed	
<input type="checkbox"/> Variance Request - Relative Placement	
<input type="checkbox"/> Variance Request - Non-related Placements	
<input type="checkbox"/> Inspection Reports, if requested (DEC/Fire)	

<u>Worksheets, If Completed</u>	<u>Employees</u>	<u>Group Home</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Adults in the Home DO84-LIC-09	<input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Policies	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Inspection Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Variance Worksheet DO84-LIC-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Staffing Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Space Diagram
<input type="checkbox"/> Menu Evaluation DO84-LIC-01	<input type="checkbox"/> Employees in F.H. 06-9046	

### Instructions for Standard by Standard Evaluation

Purpose:

The purpose of this form is to summarize findings of an on-site evaluation. The statements which appear on the left-hand side of the form summarize the regulations and are not identical to the Alaska Administrative Code. The form is used:

1. before issuing a provisional or biennial license;
2. when a complaint/allegation is investigated (optional);
3. when conditions in a facility indicate that revocation or denial of a license may become necessary;
4. when considered necessary by a supervisor.

Procedure:

The licensing worker completes the form at the time of or following the on-site visit. A copy is provided to the applicant or findings are summarized in a letter to the applicant. The original is filed in the facility record after approval or denial. If the evaluation covers more than one date, the licensing worker lists all dates of evaluation.

Form Retention:

The form is retained according to the Division retention schedule.

Detailed Instructions:

Each item being evaluated must be coded in the center column.

Coding Responses:

- X Standard Compliance
  - N/A Not Applicable
  - NC Non-Compliance
  - D Discussed - Applicant is informed and agrees to cooperate; also denotes items which may not be measured before actual operation
- Leave item blank if not evaluated

The items requiring discussion have been pre-entered. The licensing worker shows the discussion has to take place by entering a check mark. The code "D" is used only when a requirement cannot be measured before children are in care. When a requirement can be measured by observation, interview, or review of a tangible item such as a written policy or plan, the code should be standard compliance or non-compliance. "D" is considered as compliance.

In general, the documentation (left) column may be completed to specifically document compliance or non-compliance. The column is used by the reviewer to note observation, interview statements, file review findings, and other evidence that the facility meets or does not meet the requirements. The documentation column may also reference attachments of personnel record reviews, children's file reviews, or other supporting documents.

When non-compliance is indicated, the documentation column may be used to give the applicant's plan to come into compliance. When N/A is indicated, an explanation is required. The evaluation must be signed, dated, and submitted for review along with the license issuance approval form 06-9124.

**Article 1 - Licensing Process**

<b>47.35.017 and 50.030 Application for License</b>		
(e) Application is complete with required attachments		Date:
<b>50.035</b> Where two (2) adults are head of household, both apply for license		
<b>47.35.029 Content of License: Posting</b>		
(l) Foster home license is available on request		
<b>50.050 License Issued Under Emergency Conditions</b>		
(a) Emergency license was issued		Date: to
<b>47.35.027 Variances</b>		
Variances for non-relative care requested and approved		
<b>50.055 Variance for Foster Care by Relatives</b>		
(a-b) Variance(s) documented and approved by supervisor		
(c) No risk to child's safety or well-being		
<b>50.060 Self-Monitoring Report</b>		
<i>NOTE: N/A for 1st year prov license or 1st biennial license</i>		
<b>47.35.105 Complaints</b>		Any complaints received?
(e) Licensee did not retaliate against person filing a complaint		
<b>47.35.110 Investigations</b>		
(a) Cooperates during investigation		
Permits inspection of facility, record review, interviews of children in care, & provides documentation requested		

**Article 2 - Administration**

<b>50.120 Foster Home Operation and Management</b>		
(e) A foster home's practices must conform to statutes, this chapter and its practices		If any changes, was new plan submitted?
Acceptable plan for supervision submitted		
.400(a) ensures appropriate supervision		
.400(f) Designate an adult who is available to assist in an emergency		Designated adult:
<b>50.130 Records</b>		
(a) (2) Establish and retain records for 3 years		
(3) Permit review of records		Records reviewed:
(b) Records are on forms prescribed / approved by Division		
(c) (1) Record for each child is dated and identifies who is making the entry		
(c) (2) Returned to the agency upon discharge, including all medical/dental records		Records given to:
<b>.455 (f) A foster home shall:</b>		
(1) Maintain medical, dental, immunization and treatment records		
(2) Document medical or dental care or treatment if the doctor or dentist does not provide documentation		Type of documentation done by foster parent:
<b>.130 (d) Maintain confidentiality of information about a child and the child's family</b>		Discussed confidentiality with children, extended family, & care providers?

<b>47.35.047 Notice of Changes</b>	
(a) Change of mail address: 14 days prior	
(b) Knowledge of criminal incident by adult in house: within 24 hours	
(d) Capacity: 20 days prior	
(e) Sale of facility: within 24 hours	
(f) Location change: 30 days prior	
<b>50.140 Reports</b>	
(a) 30 days prior report planned changes to licensing rep:	Have changes been reported?
(1) Change in operator including marriage or divorce of a foster parent	
(2) Name change of the operator	
(3) Name of the foster home	
(5) Change in age or sex of the children served	
(6) Deletion or addition of a specialization	
(7) Addition of an adult member to the household for 45 days or longer	Use narrative to document change. Do the new household member(s) meet qualifications? (See 50.210)
(b) Immediately report to the licensing representative:	
(1) Death of a child in care	
(2) Serious injury or illness of a child requiring medical attention outside the home	
(3) Fire or other disaster	
(4) An unplanned change of item (a)	
(5) Planned or emergency absence of foster parent exceeding 72 hours and confirmation or revision of the plan for supervision of children by a responsible adult	
(c) Immediately report to placement worker:	
(1) Death of a child in care	
(2) Attempted or threatened suicide of a child in care	
(3) Life-threatening illness or hospitalization of a child in care	
(4) Unapproved absence of child for over 10 hours	
(d) First working day report to the placement worker:	
(1) Pregnancy of a child in care	
(2) Severe distress/depression of a child in care	
(3) Violation of probation by a child in care	
(4) Allegations of criminal conduct by a child in care	
(e) If a child has no placement worker, reports are to be given to DFYS	
*.415(f) Absence from the foster home exceeding 72 hours must be approved by the placement worker	Any absences?
*.415(g) 14 days advance approval from the placement worker for trips outside the State	Any trips outside?
*.415(h) Advance approval from the placement worker for in-State trips over 72 hours	Any trips in-State?

**Article 3 - Personnel**

<b>50.200 Qualifications of Foster Parent</b>		
(a) Applicants must:		Evaluation based on background, experience, references, interviews, observation. Renewals also based on agency contact, observation by placement workers and any complaints
Be 21 years of age		
(b) Be of good character and reputation		
Understand child development		
Have ability to care for children		
Have skills to work with children, family, agency staff, and other community resources		
(g) Three positive references on file		
Received directly from the reference		
Attest to the person's ability to work with children and act as a positive role model		
<b>50.210 Qualifications ... of persons having regular contact with children in foster home</b>		
(a) Adults and caregivers must be responsible individuals of reputable character who use sound judgment		
(b) Caregiver is able to deal with frustration and conflict and has ability to work with children who express themselves negatively		
(c) May <u>not</u> work, volunteer, reside in home or have direct access if:		Any direct access situations?
(1) Prior substantiated CPS report of child abuse or neglect		Discuss in narrative any negative information.
(2) Physical, health, mental health, or behavioral problem that poses a significant risk to children in care.		
(3) Domestic violence, alcohol, or other substance abuse problem		
(4) Was the subject of prior adverse licensing action		
(5) Within the last 10 years, under indictment, or convicted of a crime of assault, reckless endangerment, misconduct involving a controlled substance, or perjury; or at any time, under indictment or convicted of a serious offense including a felony, a crime involving domestic violence, or a sexual offense		
(d) Evaluation from a probation, health or mental health professional requested/obtained to determine if free from problems detrimental to children		If requested, discuss in narrative.
(e) Persons having regular contact may not abuse a child, engage in any exploitive or sexual act with a child or have a romantic relationship with a child		Any incidents?
(f) Review (for foster parents, all adult members of the household, and any adult with direct access)		
Child protection records		
Previous licensing records		
Criminal justice records		
(g) Submit two fingerprint cards for each adult residing in the home or adults having direct access to the residence		If unable to provide fingerprint cards at this time, when will this be completed?

(j) Caregiver is able to provide positive guidance, age appropriate learning & social experiences, prevent exposure to high risk activities, use strategies to prevent aggressive behavior and to de-escalate volatile situations, and act as a positive role model	
<b>50.220 Caregiver Age Requirement</b>	
(b) Caregiver is at least 21 years of age if children 15 or older; at least 18 years of age if children 14 or younger	
(c) A baby-sitter for short absence of foster parent (6 hours or less) must be at least 14 years of age	
<b>* 50.250 &amp; .030 Orientation and Training</b>	
(c) Training has been documented	
(g) One-parent home completes 10 hours training annually Two-parent home completes 15 hours training annually with each parent receiving a minimum of 5 hours.	
In addition, applicant attended orientation/preservice training if required by the agency	
(i) Any hours exceeding 6 toward orientation and pre-service training may count toward the required training under (g) of this section.	

Submitted to Alaska Foster Parent Training Center for credit?

Date attended:  
or AFPTC self-study completed:

#### Article 4 - Admission and Discharge

<b>50.300 Admission</b>	
(a) At or before a child's admission, foster parent obtained from parent or placement worker emergency information and authorization for emergency medical care	
(b) A foster home only admits children within age range, capacity, and any other conditions of license	
<b>* (c) A foster home admitting an adult for care requires a consent form &amp; develops a plan of care with the referring agency &amp; placement worker for each child that</b>	
(1) Ensures the health and safety of children as well as adult seeking services	
(2) Is approved by the licensing representative	
<b>* (d) A foster home may not admit a child for day care except on approval of a variance that ensures</b>	
(1) Fire code is met	
(2) Needs of foster children are primary	
(e) A foster home may admit a child from only one agency unless the licensing representative of that agency gives prior approval for the placement of a child from another agency	
(f) Signed foster care agreement for each child	
<b>* (g) Plan of care developed for child including reasonable accommodations for care of special needs child and independent living skills for a child aged 16 or older</b>	
(i) If home admits children with significant medical needs: Ensure a plan of care for the child	

Ensure availability of medical personnel to perform prescribed services	
<b>.340 Discharge</b>	
(d) An emergency discharge is limited to situations where the child may endanger the health or safety of another child in the home	
*(e) Provide suitable clothing and send personal possessions and money with the child at discharge	
(f) The child's personal records are sent through the placement worker	

**Article 5 - Care and Services**

<b>50.400 Supervision of Children</b>		
(a) A foster home shall ensure the children in its care will receive responsible supervision appropriate to their age and developmental needs. The plan of supervision must include supervision of children by a responsible person during the foster parent's absence.		
(g) & .210 (j) (3) Prevent exposure to individuals, animals, and situations known to be a danger.		List any hazards near home and foster parent plan to minimize risk:
May not expose a child to high-risk activities such as a young child riding an all-terrain vehicle or snow machine or a child of any age riding 3 wheelers; boating without a life vest, or in dangerous water conditions; or participating in an airborne activity such as hang gliding		
(i) The placement worker must obtain advance permission from the child's parent for participation in risk activities not usual for the community and to participate in other activities of moderate risk such as operation of a vehicle, contact sports, adventure activities, or handling of a firearm		
<b>50.415 Supervision of Children in Foster Homes</b>		
(a) First year of license, no more than 2 unrelated children		License
(b) No more than 6 children total in a foster home, of those		Capacity: <input type="text"/> Ages: <input type="text"/>
(1) No more than 2 children under 30 months		
(2) No more than 3 unrelated children after the first licensed year		
(e) The division will establish the number of children for whom a home is licensed on a case by case basis		
<b>50.420 Program for Young Children in Foster Home (0 through 8 years)</b>		
(a) Program promotes child's growth		
(1) Schedule & daily plan of activities for each age group		
Balances quiet and active, group and individual activities		Typical daily schedule does not have to be written (See 50.420 (a) (1) (B))
Adequate time for meals, snacks, sleep, toileting, indoor/outdoor play		
(2) Opportunities for self-expression/ imaginative play		

(3) Vigorous physical activity	
(4) Fosters independence	
(5) Provides intellectual and social development through games, toys, books, crafts, puzzles, crayons, blocks, infant toys, etc.	
(6) Television and video cassette viewing shall be limited to 1 hour per 4 hours of care or 4 hours in a 24-hour period	
Limited to programs for interest and benefit of child	
(b) If infants and toddlers are in care:	
(1) Periodic adult contact when awake in crib and swing (minimum of every 15 minutes)	
(2) Consistent caregiver, to extent possible	
(3) Frequent verbal contact	
(4) Physical contact through being held, rocked, played with, bathed, dressed, and carried	
(5) Allowed under supervision to explore and learn on their own outside playpen or other restraining devices	
.400(g)(1) Infant walkers are prohibited	
<b>50.430 Program in Foster Homes (Children of Any Age)</b>	
* (a) Demonstrates respect for child's family and works with the child's family as indicated in the plan of care	
(b) Recognizes, encourages, and supports the religious, ethnic, cultural heritage and language of birth parents	
Children age 9 or older are allowed to make preference choices	
(c) Provides structure and activities to promote physical, social, intellectual, spiritual, emotional development, and good health habits	
* .540 (a) Variety and use of materials, toys, and equipment are appropriate for needs; enough available to avoid competition; stored safely; accessible to children	
(d) Treats foster children equitably with own children	
(e) Chores appropriate to child's age, shared equitably and do not interfere with necessary recreation	
(f) Money earned, received as a gift, allowance or other sources will be foster child's own property	
Assists a child with funds in excess of \$200 to establish a personal bank account	
Does not borrow or spend foster child's money	
(g) Limits amount of money in child's possession if in the child's best interest	
(h) Allows the child to acquire personal belongings	
Personal belongings go with the child at discharge	
* (i) Provides each child with their own clean, well fitting attractive, seasonal clothing appropriate to age, sex, individual need and comparable in quality to the other children in the community	
(j) Takes part in the selection and arrangements for education with child's parents, if appropriate	

Sample of materials in foster home

Are materials appropriate to the age for which the license is requested?

Does foster parent provide allowance?

<b>50.435 Behavior Guidance</b>	
(a) Helps develop age appropriate behavior that fosters constructive relationships and ability to deal with life	Examples:
(b) Provides positive reinforcement, redirection, sets realistic expectations and clear consistent limits	Describe methods used:
(c) May not use discipline or behavior management that is cruel, humiliating or otherwise damaging to a child	
<b>.210 (j) A caregiver must:</b>	
(1) Support behavior with positive guidance and set clear limits	Example:
(2) Provide age-appropriate learning and social experiences	Example:
(4) Use strategies to prevent aggressive behavior	
(5) Act as a positive role model	
<b>50.435</b>	
(d) A child in care may not be:	
(1) Removed from the other children for more than 10 minutes, if a young child	
(2) Disciplined in association with food or rest	
(3) Punished for bedwetting or actions in regard to toileting or toilet training	
(4) Subjected to discipline administered by another child	
(5) Deprived of family contacts, mail, clothing, medical care, therapeutic activities designated in the child's plan of care, or contact with the child's placement worker or legal representative	
(6) Subjected to verbal abuse, derogatory remarks about the child/child's family, or to threats to expel the child from the facility	
(7) Placed in a locked room	
(8) Physically restrained, except to protect child or others from injury, or protect property. Only passive restraint may be used	
(9) No mechanical restraints except for protective devices such as seatbelts	
(10) No chemical restraints except on order of physician	
(f) No form of corporal punishment used on children	
<b>50.440 Medication</b>	
A foster home only administers medication if:	
(2) Prescriptions and special medical procedures are authorized by a physician	
(3) (A)(B) Prescriptions are in original container or medicine sets filled by a medical professional	
(4) Over the counter drugs (non-aspirin products, vitamins, sunscreen, etc.) given only at dose specified on manufacturer's label, unless written instructions from a doctor	
(6) Unused medication is discarded	
<b>50.445 Reducing the Spread of Disease</b>	

(a) Reduce risk against the spread of contagious or infectious diseases by:	
(1) Seeking and complying with current medical and sanitation advice	
(2) Adopting universal precautions for: handling blood, bodily fluids, open lesions and disinfecting surfaces	
(3) Training staff, if any, in precautions	
(b) Caregivers wash hands before food service; after toileting; after assisting a child with toileting/diapers; handling a pet or other animal; and contact with bodily fluids.	
(c) Caregivers encourage children to wash hands as above	
<b>50.455 Health in Foster Homes</b>	
(a) Evidence of immunization or shots initiated within 30 days of placement	Immunization records reviewed:
(b) Facility obtains health information at time of placement:	
(1) Date and provider of last physical exam	
(2) Any health problems	
(3) Immunization history	
* (c) Arrange an exam within 30 days if child is	Exam done?
Over 3 yrs and has not seen a doctor in the past year	
Under 3 yrs and has not seen a doctor in the past 3 months	
Provide continuing medical and dental services according to EPSDT schedule	
* (d) Children 3 years and older receive a dental examination at least yearly and dental treatment as needed	Exam done?
(e) A foster home may not have human immunodeficiency virus & acquired immune deficiency testing done on a child in care	
<b>50.460 Nutrition</b>	
(a) Snacks and meals meet food program requirements	
(e) Attempt to provide food reflecting ethnic background of children, including food provided by child's family	
(f) Obtain information and plan meals reflecting any food allergies or special dietary needs	
(g) Never deny a meal or snack, force food, or coerce a child to eat	

**Article 6 - Environment**

<b>50.510 Life and Fire Safety</b>		<i>Required for FGH with 6 - 8 children in home.</i>
(c) Worker may request a fire inspection, if necessary		Fire inspection requested?
(d) Emergency evacuation plan approved by licensing:		
(1) Achieves evacuation in 150 seconds		
(2) Provides for evacuation of children under 30 months, children with limited mobility, or children who may otherwise need assistance in emergencies		
(e) Monthly drills documented (may be postponed due to severe weather). Drills every 3 mos if children over 12		Dates of last 3 fire drills:

yrs & in care for 3 months	
(f) A foster home must have	
(1) At least 2 means of emergency escape remote from each other; unobstructed; one is an exterior door	
(2) At least 1 exit from basement directly to outside at or near ground level if children occupy basement	
(3) At least 1 operable window in each child's sleeping room that meets requirements of (h) (1)-(3) of this section and provides direct access to outside	
(g) No more than 6 children, including related children, if single family dwelling with only 1 exterior door	
(h) A window designated as one emergency escape must be operable, and	
(1) The finished sill height may not exceed 48 inches above the floor;	
(2) The net clear openable area must be a minimum of 5.7 square feet, with a minimum net clear openable height dimension of 24 inches;	
(3) The minimum net clear openable width dimension must be 20 inches.	
(i) Foster home must be free of fire hazards and must	
(1) Have at least one AC primary power or battery powered smoke detection device on each level	
Have at least one fully charged 2A:10BC (or larger) fire extinguisher strategically located on each level	
(2) Store flammable or combustible liquids out of reach of young children; containers have tight fitting lids	
(3) Heating appliances installed and maintained in safe and serviceable manner, including:	
(A) Vented to the outside if fuel burning; and	
(B) Not located in corridors or exit ways at any time, or in sleeping quarters during sleeping hours, unless no separate sleeping area	
<b>50.520 Environmental Health and Safety</b>	
(b) Worker may request environmental health inspection	
(c) Home must have ample supply of potable water from one of the following sources:	
(1) Community water supply	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) (A) (B) Rain catchment system is disinfected; stored off the floor; and poured or dispensed by a faucet	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3) Surface water with acceptable filtration system and is continuously disinfected	<input type="checkbox"/>
(4) Well water passes laboratory test for bacteria	<input type="checkbox"/>
(5) Well with a casing that extends 12 or more inches above the ground with sanitary seal and is at least 100 feet from sewer system	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) Precautions taken to assure the home (both inside and outside) is free of hazards that cause injury or disease	

Describe exits and access:

Describe window:

Smoke detector tested by worker?

Inspection requested?

Check type of water supply.

(1) Maintained in a clean and sanitary condition	
(2) Sanitary facilities for care, storage, refrigeration and preparation of food	
(3) Hot water not above 120 degrees in homes caring for young children (ages 0 through 8 years)	
(4) Cleaners, medicines and harmful substances inaccessible to young children	Cleaners stored: Medicines stored:
(5) Furniture and equipment is durable, safe, and in good repair	
(6) Proper sewage disposal with no overflow	
(7) Refuse stored in containers with tight lids	
(8) Sanitary toileting facilities	
(9) Safe and sanitary equipment/supplies for diapering and toileting of babies/toddlers	
(e) Label bottles and pacifiers if more than one child uses. Disinfect in dishwasher or boil at least 5 minutes	
(f) Firearms are unloaded and ammunition stored separately; both inaccessible to children	Location of firearms: Location of Ammo:
(g) A foster home must submit an acceptable firearm safety instruction plan to the licensing representative before a child is allowed to handle a firearm	Firearm Safety Instruction Plan covered in Plan for Foster Care (06-9371)
(i) No smoking in a room with children under 30 months; if plan protects older children from second-hand smoke, smoking allowed in same room	Plan submitted?
(j) Use child-proof cover caps in all electrical outlets accessible to children under 5	
<b>50.530 Space</b>	
(a) Enough indoor and outdoor space to meet needs of children served	
<b>50.540 Equipment and Supplies</b>	
(a) Variety and use of materials toys and equipment is appropriate for needs; enough available to avoid competition; stored safely; accessible to children	
(d) Home has phone or message phone, unless phones are not readily available in the community	
(g) Beds, cribs, bedding and sleeping space for each child. Own bed/crib except young children of the same sex may share a double bed	

**Article 7 - Specializations**

<b>50.600 Approval of Specializations</b>		
Facility meets requirements for Division approval of Specializations(s)		
<b>50.610 Emergency Shelter Care in Foster Homes</b>		
(a) Specialization for emergency shelter care, including respite care, has been approved		<input type="checkbox"/> ES Only <input type="checkbox"/> Combined Care
(b) May provide emergency shelter care in combination with regular foster care		
(c) At admission, foster home conducts a brief health review of the child using DFYS Form 06-9372		Has facility been provided with a supply of health assessment forms?
Secures necessary medical or dental treatment		
(d) A home that provides emergency shelter care must have one foster parent generally available		Parent available:
<b>50.630 Boarding Care in Foster Homes</b>		
Department approves specialization in boarding care		
An applicant for a foster care license for the sole purpose of providing only boarding care is exempt from certain requirements of this chapter (marked with *)		See Section 7AAC50.630 for exemptions.
<b>50.640 Supervised Transition Living in Foster Homes</b>		
(a) Foster home representing a specialization in supervised transition living has a division approved specialization		
(b) The foster home provides or arranges services to prepare and make the transition to independence		
(c) Services address child's need for:		
(1) Establishing or strengthening family ties		
(2) Life skills training, including money management, and obtaining and maintaining a residence		
(3) Education with regard to human sexuality		
(4) Vocational or other training		
(5) Housing during transition to independence		
(6) Legal services		
(7) Arrangements for aftercare services, socialization, cultural/religious and recreational activities		
(d) Assist child in obtaining documents such as birth certificates, social security card, drivers license, education records, medical or other health eligibility documentation and records, job resume, references		
(e) Teach basic skills for negotiating with community institutions, such as banking, health care, employment, education, and recreation		
(f) Before discharge assure that basic resources are in place		
(g) Give at least 30 days notice to the child if services stop		
<b>50.645 Care for Pregnant and Parenting Adolescents</b>		
(a) Dept. approves specialization in care of pregnant and parenting adolescents.		



G. Note background information relevant to the assessment of the family. Discuss any domestic violence/criminal history, child protection concern, physical or mental health concerns regarding any member of the household and assess risk to child in placement:

H. Special skills of this family (i.e.: languages including sign language, medical training, cultural, etc.):

I. Summary of family strengths:

J. Summary of family limitations/need for support:

K. Placement preferences:

L. Worker recommendations:

To Rep. Fred Dyson

From :Rebecca and Ross Clement  
POBox 111362  
Anchorage, Alaska 99511

Reference: House Bill No 175

Please support House Bill # 175. It is important as tax payers,whose taxes support foster homes that we be advised when a license to operate in our neighborhood is appllied for. The community council is an effective way of advising the neighborhood of possible group homes. Please support this bill.

Rebecca and Ross Clement

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# Public Opinion Message

Anchorage Legislative Information Office (LIO)  
710 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 200 • Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: 286-0111 (Fax: 286-0229)

call fax

**This form must be completely filled out. You may phone, fax, or deliver your POM to any LIO.**

**From:** Please PRINT the information below. This form must be signed by the sender.

Mr. Mr. Mrs.	First name	Initial	Last name	City, St., Zip
Mr	GARY		HOFF	
Residence street address (if different from mailing address)				Zip code
820 Harbor Circle				99515
Home telephone number	Work or office (if applicable)		Signature	
907-345-8334	Oceanview Community Council		J Gary Hoff	

**To:** Put a ✓ in the appropriate box(es).

Committee	House members	Senate members
<input type="checkbox"/> H or S	<input type="checkbox"/> Austerman (aue)	<input type="checkbox"/> Adams (ada)
<input type="checkbox"/> Community & Regional Affairs (cra)	<input type="checkbox"/> Barnes (bar)	<input type="checkbox"/> Denley (den)
<input type="checkbox"/> Finance (fin)	<input type="checkbox"/> Merkwitz (mer)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ellis (eli)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health, Ed., & Social Services (hes)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brice (bri)	<input type="checkbox"/> Egan (ega)
<input type="checkbox"/> Judiciary (jud)	<input type="checkbox"/> Burde (bur)	<input type="checkbox"/> Green (gre)
<input type="checkbox"/> Labor & Commerce (lao)	<input type="checkbox"/> Clarna (cla)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hallor (hal)
<input type="checkbox"/> Resources (res)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coghli (cog)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hoffman (hof)
<input type="checkbox"/> Rules (rul)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cowdry (cow)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kelly, P. (rep)
<input type="checkbox"/> State Affairs (sta)	<input type="checkbox"/> Craft (cra)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kelly, T. (rep)
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation (tra)	<input type="checkbox"/> Davie (dav)	<input type="checkbox"/> Leman (lem)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Davis (dav)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln (lin)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dyan (dya)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mackle (mak)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foster (fos)	<input type="checkbox"/> Miller (mil)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Green (gre)	<input type="checkbox"/> Parnell (par)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gruesendorf (gre)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pearce (par)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Harbo (har)	<input type="checkbox"/> Phillips, P. (sen)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Harris (har)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sanders (san)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hudson (hud)	<input type="checkbox"/> Smalley (smi)
	<input type="checkbox"/> James (jam)	<input type="checkbox"/> Threlkeld (thr)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Joule (jou)	<input type="checkbox"/> Whitaker (whi)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Williams (wil)

**Subject:** Fill out the boxes below OR enter a Subject.

HB or SB	Bill number	and check one:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose	<input type="checkbox"/> Amend	<input type="checkbox"/> enter a general Subject (LIO staff may modify):
HB	175					

**Message:** Your PRINTED message cannot exceed 50 words or contain an / vulgar language.

We	Need	this	Bill	
Our	Community	Council	has	worked
hard	researching	Group	Foster	Homas
	Notices	should	be	required.
Strongly	large	passage	of	HR 175
	Foster	Homas	are	needed
but	the	Public	has	concerns
that	must	be	addressed.	We
provide	notice	for	many	things
include	Foster	Homas	.	PASS.



# Public Opinion Message

Anchorage Legislative Information Office (LIO)  
 715 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 200 • Anchorage, AK 99501 • Phone: 269-0111 Fax: 269-0220

**This form must be completely filled out. You may phone, fax, or deliver your POM to any LIO.**

**From:** Please PRINT the information below. This form must be signed by the sender.

Mr./Ms./Mx...	First name <b>JOHN</b>	MI. <b>C</b>	Last name <b>SWARTZ</b>	St., Dr., P.O.
Meeting address <b>12530 HANSA ROSE CIR</b>	City <b>ANCHORAGE</b>			Zip code <b>99515</b>
Reference (street) address if different from mailing address				Zip code
City/State telephone number <b>349-0906</b>	Group affiliation (if applicable)	Signature <i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	Date <b>4-9-99</b>	

**To:** Put a  in the appropriate box(es).

Committees	House members	Senate members
<b>House</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Community & Regional Affairs (ora) <input type="checkbox"/> Finance (fin) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health, Ed., & Social Services (hea) <input type="checkbox"/> Judiciary (jud) <input type="checkbox"/> Labor & Commerce (l&c) <input type="checkbox"/> Resources (res) <input type="checkbox"/> Rules (rs) <input type="checkbox"/> State Affairs (sta) <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation (tra) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Auelerman (aue) <input type="checkbox"/> Barnes (bar) <input type="checkbox"/> Berikowitz (bur) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brice (bri) <input type="checkbox"/> Bunde (bun) <input type="checkbox"/> Cleans (cle) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coghil (cog) <input type="checkbox"/> Cowdery (cay) <input type="checkbox"/> Crah (cra) <input type="checkbox"/> Davies (dav) <input type="checkbox"/> Davis (dvg) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dyson (dys) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fealer (fev) <input type="checkbox"/> Green (grn) <input type="checkbox"/> Gruenendorf (gre) <input type="checkbox"/> Heider (hec) <input type="checkbox"/> Harris (har) <input type="checkbox"/> Hudson (hud) <input type="checkbox"/> James (jam) <input type="checkbox"/> Jewe (jou)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kapaner (kap) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kempton (kem) <input type="checkbox"/> Kertula (ker) <input type="checkbox"/> Kohring (koh) <input type="checkbox"/> Kookesh (koo) <input type="checkbox"/> Kott (kot) <input type="checkbox"/> Maack (mae) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Morgan (mor) <input type="checkbox"/> Moses (mos) <input type="checkbox"/> Mulder (mul) <input type="checkbox"/> Murkowski (mur) <input type="checkbox"/> Ogan (oga) <input type="checkbox"/> Phillips, G. (phg) <input type="checkbox"/> Porter (por) <input type="checkbox"/> Rakeberg (rak) <input type="checkbox"/> Sanders (san) <input type="checkbox"/> Smalley (smi) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theriault (thr) <input type="checkbox"/> Whitaker (whi) <input type="checkbox"/> Williams (wil)
<b>COUNCILS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Anchorage (ace) <input type="checkbox"/> Bush (bus) <input type="checkbox"/> Fairbanks/Interior (fai) <input type="checkbox"/> Matau (mat) <input type="checkbox"/> Majority (maj) <input type="checkbox"/> Minority (min)		<input type="checkbox"/> Adams (ada) <input type="checkbox"/> Donlay (don) <input type="checkbox"/> Eide (eie) <input type="checkbox"/> Eilon (eil) <input type="checkbox"/> Green (gre) <input type="checkbox"/> Halford (hal) <input type="checkbox"/> Heitman (hef) <input type="checkbox"/> Kelly, F. (kef) <input type="checkbox"/> Kelly, T. (ket) <input type="checkbox"/> Leman (len) <input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln (lin) <input type="checkbox"/> Mackle (mak) <input type="checkbox"/> Miller (mil) <input type="checkbox"/> Parnell (par) <input type="checkbox"/> Pearce (per) <input type="checkbox"/> Phillips, R. (phi) <input type="checkbox"/> Taylor (tay) <input type="checkbox"/> Yorgerson (yor) <input type="checkbox"/> Ward (war) <input type="checkbox"/> Wilken (wik)

**Subject:** Fill out the boxes below OR enter a Subject.

HB or SB <b>HB</b>	Bill number <b>175</b>	and check one:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Amend	<b>OR</b> enter a general Subject (LIO staff may modify):
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**Message:** Your PRINTED message cannot exceed 50 words or contain any vulgar language.

I	SUPPORT	HB 175	WE	WANT	
-10	BE	INFORMED	THRU	COMMUNITY	10
COUNCILS					18
					26
					34
					42
					50
					58
					66

# Oceanview/Old Seward Community Council

P.O. Box 110045  
Anchorage AK, 99511

14 September 1998

Commissioner Karen Perdue  
350 Main Street, Room 204  
P.O. Box 11061  
Juneau, AK 99811-0601

Dear Commissioner Perdue

In April 1998 neighbors on Bree Avenue in Anchorage learned a Group Foster Home for emotionally disturbed children was established on their quiet residential street. The establishment of this home and the associated problems that have arrived with it have the immediate neighbors extremely concerned. Personnel on Bree Avenue and Pacific View, another connecting street, have worked with DFYS, Representative Joe Green, Assemblyman Bob Bell of Anchorage, and the foster care provider Mr. John Vogt. The Oceanview/Old Seward Community Council has provided a forum to bring the interested parties together and formed a committee to review the impact of the Group Foster Home on the neighborhood. Mr. Vogt is on the committee. More questions have surfaced than have been answered through these avenues.

The impact of the Group Foster Home on the neighborhood has been significant. Previously parents felt free to let their children go across the street to Johns Park to play. They no longer can do that because they fear for the safety of their children from the emotionally disturbed children and the increased traffic to the Group Foster Home. They report that many of the persons visiting the Group Foster Home, which includes the enormous number of social workers and others associated with the State of Alaska have no regard for the 25-MPH speed limit. Also the visitors to the Group Foster Home park in the tightly crowded street causing a hazard to traffic. So far the Group Foster Home has had at least three police calls. One of those calls, July 6, 1998, was very serious as one of the foster children held the care provider and police at bay with a knife. Luckily it was at night when young children were not out and could have potentially been involved. Because of the laws regarding juveniles, we do not know what the other police calls involved.

There can be incidents involving the police in any neighborhood, however, having a foster home with 6 or 7 emotionally disturbed children increases the potential for problems significantly. No one in our community council denies that foster homes are not necessary. However does grouping 6 or more disturbed children with a non married man provide a role model home life?

The Oceanview/Old Seward Community Council is available to discuss and work this serious situation. Our point of contact is Gary Hoff, 345-8334 (H) or 552-8132 (W), email:gopherrr@alaska.net. Our next meeting is scheduled for 14 October 1998. We request any information that you may have as a final or partial reply to this letter prior to the meeting.

Sincerely

**SIGNED**  
B.K. Powell  
President

1 Attachment  
Extract

cc:

✓ Rep Joe Green  
Mr. Bob Bell  
Ms Pat Abney  
Ms Fay Von Gemmingen  
Ms Kathleen Plunkett  
Federation of Community Councils  
Chief Duane Udland

We request that you review this situation, looking at the following areas:

A. Are the DFYS regulations reviewed on a continuing basis to ensure they are in step with today, not when they were written? Children and needs change over the years.

B. Does this particular foster care provider meet the Foster Family qualifications? (See attachment 1, which is extracted from the Foster Care Handbook)

C. Is the amount of foster care provider training for this type of home sufficient? Special Education teachers that we have contacted do not think the minimum number of hours (ten) or type of training is close to sufficient.

D. Is DFYS meeting their mission statement, which states in part "...while providing community protection"? Does the neighborhood have a safe and secure community? The potential for an unsafe neighborhood has increased significantly on Bree Avenue.

E. Is DFYS properly notifying neighborhood residents of Group Foster Homes? The state and municipality normally notify neighborhoods when a change will affect the residents. Group Foster Homes are significant changes to a community. In this case neighbors found out through fortuity.

F. Is Mr. Russ Webb of DFYS reviewing the Group Foster Home regulations and requirements as promised on May 4, 1998 to Rep Joe Green and the concerned neighbors?

G. Did DFYS take into consideration that the Group Foster Home was placed next to a city park?

H. Will violent or sex offenders be placed in this neighborhood Group Foster Home?

I. Does using square footage in a home to determine the number of children placed make sense? The home on Bree Avenue could have 17 occupants. We know the DFYS regulations do not allow that many, but, even six or seven may be to many. Especially with an unmarried individual.

J. What is the legal mission of the Citizens Foster Care Review Board? What is the current status of the Citizen Foster Care Review Board and is it capable of fulfilling its legal mission?

## SUPPORT HOUSE BILL #175

DATE: April 9, 1999  
 TO: Rep. Fred Dyson 465-4587  
 FROM: Ev Irvin 345-5125

I support HB 175 and amendments for specifying number of kids in care (supplied on license) and what types of kids. It is basic information neighborhoods deserve to be made aware and make appropriate family choices, group homes do impact neighborhoods.

1 year ago, our neighborhood knew little of the foster care system. 1 year of research included learning who to ask questions of and even how to ask questions. We hit brick walls until Assemblypersons, our Community Council and Rep. Green opened dialogue and held meetings asking questions for their constituents. Should getting information be this difficult for citizens?

People or organizations we've talked to or met with:

- \* Alternative Community Mental Health
- \* DFYS Gwen McAlpin, Licensing Supervisor  
 Steve McComb, Acting Regional Director  
 Karl Brimmer, DHSS  
 Russ Webb, DHSS  
 Leonard Abel, Mental Health Services Program Mgr.  
 Derrill Johnson, DDS Program Mgr.  
 James Steele, Regional Acting Director
- \* Dept. of Health and Developmental Disabilities
- \* Foster Care Review Panel
- \* Anchorage Police Department
- \* A probation officer
- \* Muni Planning & Health Depts.
- \* Various Assemblypersons
- \* Jeff Jessie, MHA Director
- \* Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council
- \* Rep. Pete Kelly-Fairbanks
- \* Rep. Joe Green-Anchorage

1 year of phone calls and meetings resulted in HB 175. I encourage support of HB 175 and asking the following 4 questions. 1) Will non-profit agencies be privatized? 2) Are foster group homes mentioned in the new level of care system? 3) If privatized, will the non-profit agencies manage foster group homes or whom will? 4) Who will the public ask questions of? We still don't know the answers to these.

The public needs a systems approach--a feedback system such as Rep. Kempen suggested during testimony 4/8/99.

Rachel Faralan  
P.O. Box 771814  
Eagle River, Alaska 99577  
(907) 694-7644

April 8, 1999

Representative Fred Dyson  
Alaska State House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Mr. Dyson,

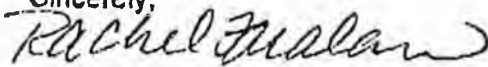
I am a proud Eagle River resident and I thank you for your representation in the House for our neighborhood. I want to talk to you, however, about an alarming House bill that has been put forth recently:

HB 175: This bill concerns me for the following reasons:

1. The direction of fair treatment to children:
  - a. We, as a nation, have not moved very far away from children being locked up in asylums and orphanages. Won't this bill move us backward from the positive direction we have been moving?
  - b. Children should NOT be treated like adult registered sex offenders and have to give up their confidentiality before they move into a neighborhood. The next thing we will be doing is publishing their names and histories on the Internet.
2. Confidentiality
  - a. Children have a right to not be known in their neighborhoods as foster children. They have no part in their position in a foster home and should not have to be subjected to the neighborhood council knowing who they are and knowing that they are living in a foster home.
  - b. Children may be subjected to unfair treatment in a neighborhood, as we have seen, if their position in life were to be divulged to the entire area.
3. Not enough foster homes
  - a. I am aware that people in Ocean View and other prestigious neighborhoods are concerned about high numbers of foster children in one home, but as a person who works in the social services field, what are we supposed to do? We do not have enough places to place all of these children. Many children spend weeks and weeks living in Laurel Shelter and Intermission crisis nursery because we have no homes for them.
    1. Perhaps what this bill should state is that if people do not want high numbers of children in one foster homes...than they should take one or two of these poor children into their homes.

Mr. Dyson, I have worked with these foster children, the natural families, and the foster families for a long time. It just sickens me to think that we still have to fight for their rights to fair treatment in this modern society. Please stop this bill from passing.

Sincerely,



Rachel Faralan