

TITLE 40 SOCIAL SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE
PART 19 DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES
CHAPTER 749 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CHILD-PLACING AGENCIES
SUBCHAPTER N FOSTER HOMES: MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION

§749.2827. How long may a current foster group home continue to operate?

House Bill 7, 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017 prohibited you from verifying a foster group home after August 31, 2017. A foster group home that you previously verified can continue to operate until August 31, 2019, by which time you must:

(1) Convert the home's verification to a foster family home verification;
or

(2) Close the home, which may include having the foster group home relinquish the verification to you.

TITLE 40 SOCIAL SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE
PART 19 DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES
CHAPTER 749 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CHILD-PLACING AGENCIES
SUBCHAPTER M FOSTER HOMES: SCREENINGS AND VERIFICATIONS
DIVISION 3 VERIFICATION OF FOSTER HOMES

§749.2470. What must I do to verify a foster family home?

You must take the following steps to verify a foster family home:

(1) Complete and document the requirements for §749.2447 of this subchapter (relating to What information must I obtain for the foster home screening?);

(2) Complete and document the required interviews as specified in §749.2449 of this subchapter (relating to Whom must I interview when conducting a foster home screening?);

(3) Obtain the following:

(A) A floor plan of the home that shows the dimensions and purposes of all rooms in the home and identifies the indoor areas for children's use; and

(B) A sketch or photo of the outside areas that shows the buildings, driveways, fences, storage areas, gardens, recreation areas, and pools, ponds, or other bodies of water;

(4) Inspect the home to ensure and document that the home meets the appropriate rules of this chapter, including:

(A) Subchapter K of this chapter (relating to Foster Care Services: Daily Care, Problem Management); and

(B) Subchapter O of this chapter (relating to Foster Homes: Health and Safety Requirements, Environment, Space and Equipment), including a:

(i) Health inspection; and

(ii) Fire inspection;

(5) If the home will provide a transitional living program, ensure the home complies with the policies developed according to §749.125 of this

chapter (relating to What policies must I develop for foster parents who offer a transitional living program?);

(6) Evaluate all areas required in this subchapter and make recommendations regarding the home's ability to care for and work with children with respect to a child's gender and age, the number of children, and the types of services to be provided;

(7) If there are any indicators of potential risk to children based on the assessment and evaluation of an area required in this subchapter, document the indicators and how you addressed them with the prospective foster family before approval and verification of the home;

(8) Obtain from the child placement management staff the review and approval of the home screening, and the recommended verification of the home; and

(9) Issue a verification certificate that specifies the:

(A) Name of the foster family home;

(B) Foster family home address and location;

(C) Foster family home's total capacity, which includes the biological and adopted children of the caregivers who live in the foster family home, any children receiving foster care or respite child-care, and any children for whom the family provides day care;

(D) Foster family home's foster care capacity, a subset of the total capacity, which includes only children placed for foster care or respite child-care;

(E) Gender and ages of children for which the home is verified to provide foster care or respite child-care;

(F) Types of services the foster family home will provide;

(G) Agency's main office or branch office, which issued the verification; and

(H) Expiration date of a time-limited verification, if applicable.

§749.2471. How do I convert a current foster group home verification to a foster family home verification?

(a) To convert a home that you previously verified as a foster group home to a foster family home, you must:

(1) Complete a foster family home screening update by using an addendum; and

Figure: 40 TAC §749.2471(a)(1)

Helpful Information

The addendum is additional information that will be added at the end of the home screening. The addendum only needs to update the portion of the home screening that is changing. For example the addendum will need to change:

- The capacity of the home;*
- The ages and gender of children for which the home is authorized to provide care, if applicable;*
- The types of services the foster home will provide, if applicable; and*
- Any other relevant issue in the home screening that needs to be updated.*

(2) Issue a foster family home verification certificate as specified in §749.2470(9) of this subchapter (relating to What must I do to verify a foster family home?).

(b) You do not have to:

(1) Update the floor plan of the home that shows the dimensions and purposes of all rooms in the home and identifies the indoor areas for children's use, unless at the time of conversion there have been changes made to the home that require you to update the floor plan;

(2) Update the sketch or photo of the outside areas that shows the buildings, driveways, fences, storage areas, gardens, recreation areas, and pools, ponds, or other bodies of water, unless at the time of conversion there have been changes to the outside areas that require you to update the sketch or photo;

(3) Re-inspect the home to ensure and document that the home meets the rules in Subchapter K of this chapter (relating to Foster Care Services: Daily Care, Problem Management);

(4) Re-inspect the home to ensure and document that the home meets the rules in Subchapter O of this chapter (relating to Foster Homes: Health and Safety Requirements, Environment, Space and Equipment), including:

(A) A new health inspection, although you must update the inspection if a new health inspection is due at the time of the conversion; and

(B) A new fire inspection, although you must update the inspection if a new fire inspection is due at the time of the conversion; or

(5) Re-submit background checks for all applicable household members, although you must submit renewal background checks that are due at the time of the conversion.

~~§749.2471. What must I do to verify a foster home?~~

~~Verifying a foster home includes the following steps:~~

~~(1) Completing and documenting the requirements for §749.2447 of this title (relating to What information must I obtain for the foster home screening?);~~

~~(2) Completing and documenting the required interviews as specified in §749.2449 of this title (relating to Whom must I interview when conducting a foster home screening?);~~

~~(3) Obtaining the following:~~

~~(A) A floor plan of the home showing dimensions and purposes of all rooms in the home and identifying indoor areas for children's use;~~

~~(B) A sketch or photo of the outside areas showing buildings, driveways, fences, storage areas, gardens, recreation areas, pools, ponds, or other bodies of water;~~

~~(C) An approved fire inspection; and~~

~~(D) An approved health inspection;~~

~~(4) Inspecting the home to ensure and document that the home meets appropriate rules of this chapter, including:~~

~~(A) Tuberculosis screening, see §749.1417 of this title (relating to Who must have a tuberculosis (TB) examination?);~~

~~(B) Subchapter K of this chapter (relating to Foster Care Services: Daily Care, Problem Management); and~~

~~(C) Subchapter O of this title (relating to Foster Homes: Health and Safety Requirements, Environment, Space and Equipment);~~

~~(5) If the home will provide a transitional living program, ensuring the home complies with the policies developed according to §749.125 of this title (relating to What policies must I develop for foster parents who offer a transitional living program?);~~

~~(6) Evaluating all areas required in this subchapter, and making recommendations regarding the home's ability to care for and work with children with respect to a child's gender and age, the number of children, and the types of services to be provided;~~

~~(7) If there are any indicators of potential risk to children based on the assessment and evaluation of an area required in this subchapter, documenting the indicators and how you addressed them with the prospective foster family prior to approval and verification of the home;~~

~~(8) Obtaining from the child placement management staff review and approval of the home screening, and the recommended verification of the home; and]~~

~~(9) Issuing a verification certificate that specifies the:~~

~~(A) Name of the foster home;]~~

~~(B) Foster home address and/or location;~~

~~(C) Foster home's total capacity, which includes the biological and adopted children of the caregivers who live in the foster home, any children receiving foster or respite child care, and children for whom the family provides day care;~~

~~(D) Foster home's foster care capacity, a subset of the total capacity which includes only children placed for foster care or respite child care;~~

~~(E) Ages and gender(s) of children for which the home is verified to provide foster care or respite child care;~~

~~(F) Types of services the foster home will provide;~~

~~(G) Agency's main office or branch office which issued the verification;~~
and

~~(H) Expiration date of a time-limited verification, if applicable.~~

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