

## **LICENSED CAREGIVER MANDATORY ON-GOING TRAINING POLICY**

### **Why are licensed caregivers required to attend mandatory training?**

The Children and Family Services Review (CFSR) indicated a significant concern that CA does not require ongoing mandatory training hours for licensed caregivers. In March of 2004, a work group of licensed caregivers, staff, private agency caregivers, and foster parent association staff met and agreed that ongoing training requirement was necessary for continued professional development of foster parents.

### **What training counts towards meeting the requirement?**

Training that counts towards the required 36 hours includes:

1. Resource Family Training Institute (RFTI) training courses;
2. Conferences and trainings related to child welfare and/or other human services relevant to the foster parent's scope of duties;
3. Other relevant training offered by the Office of Training and Development, Children's Administration;
4. Certification programs offered by Pierce or Seattle Central Community College;
5. CA on-line or video training courses offered on the Resource Family Institute's webpage;
6. CA approved private agency training courses;
7. Other training as approved by the licensor.

### **Do both people on the license have to meet the 36 hour requirement?**

No. The 36 hour training requirement may be met by one or both parties on a license, in any combination. That is, one party on a two parent license may complete all 36 hours or two people on a two parent license may complete part of the 36 hours as long as a total of 36 hours is completed.

### **What happens if I don't take ongoing classes prior to being re-licensed?**

If the licensed family foster home reaches re-licensing without completing the training requirement of 36 hours in 3 years, the licensor will

1. create a compliance plan for not more than 6 months with the licensee(s) for completion of the requirement, and
2. if the compliance plan is not met, issue a stop placement until the training requirement is met.

Revocation may occur if the compliance plan is not met.

### **Can compliance plan hours from a past licensing period also count toward the hours in the renewal period?**

No.

### **May I 'carry over' any hours in excess of the required 36?**

No. The "36 hours in 3 years" refers to the licensing period.

**How will my training record be tracked?**

Give your licensor copies of your training certificates so completed training can be input into our electronic records. S/he will be checking your file prior to relicensing.

**Who do I ask if I have questions?**

Consult your licensor if you have any questions about the policy or what training counts towards your required hours.

**FOR INFORMATION REGARDING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

**VISIT OUR WEBPAGE AT:**

<http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/onGoing.asp>