



CDSS

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**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
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October 14, 2011

**CCL INFORMATION RELEASE NO. 2011- 06**

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Initiated by CCL

TO: CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM STAFF  
 CONTRACTED COUNTY FOSTER FAMILY HOME LICENSING PROGRAM  
 ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
 ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
 ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGERS  
 TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES

SUBJECT: ASSEMBLY BILL 12 NON-MINOR DEPENDENTS INTERIM STANDARDS

On September 30, 2010, Assembly Bill (AB) 12, The California Fostering Connections to Success Act (Chapter 559, Statutes of 2010) became law, allowing California to implement provisions of the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351). The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) is pleased to take part in implementing a major provision of AB 12 that allows California to extend foster care for non-minor dependents (NMDs) up to age 20 and, subject to budget appropriation by the state legislature, up to age 21.

As required by AB 12, CCLD developed standards for NMDs in consultation with a broad base of specified stakeholders. These standards recognize NMDs as legal adults and provide them with the "greatest amount of freedom that will safely prepare them for self-sufficiency." Based on the input gathered from consultative meetings with stakeholders on four different occasions and the requirements of Health and Safety Code section 1502.7, CCLD has prepared interim standards for NMDs to be published on our website.

The attached interim standards will be applied to all categories of licensed children's residential facilities affected by AB 12. These include: Small Family Homes; Group Homes; Transitional Housing Placement Programs; Foster Family Homes and Certified Family Homes; and Foster Family Agencies (FFAs). Caregivers and licensees who will provide care to NMDs and FFAs that will place NMDs will be required to follow new

sub-chapter NMD regulations for each category as well as the specified existing regulations for each category.

Some highlights of the AB 12 subchapter NMD interim standards are as follows:

- NMDs are permitted to control their cash resources, personal property, and valuables in accordance with their Transitional Independent Living Plans.
- Caregivers and licensees are required to accord NMDs personal rights in regard to personal items, health care, and independence.
- NMDs are to be subject to reasonable expectations, alternatives, and consequences for living in the facility or home by the caregiver or licensee.
- Caregivers and licensees must provide access to information to assist NMDs in preparing to emancipate from foster care.
- New definitions specific to NMDs, such as “non-minor dependent,” have been added to regulations.

Copies of these interim standards for each category of children’s residential facility or home affected by AB 12 are posted on the CCLD website at <http://cclid.ca.gov/>. They will remain in effect until regulations complete the formal regulatory process and go into effect in July 2012. For general information regarding AB 12, please reference [ACIN I-40-11](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Fernando Sandoval, Manager of the Children’s Residential Policy Unit, at (916) 654-2105 or by e-mail at [Fernando.Sandoval@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Fernando.Sandoval@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original signed by Jeffrey Hiratsuka***

JEFFREY HIRATSUKA  
Deputy Director  
Community Care Licensing Division