


To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator  
DCF Area Administrators  
Child Placing Agency Directors  
Child Welfare Agency Directors  
County Departments of Community Programs Directors  
County Departments of Human Services Directors  
County Departments of Social Services Directors  
Group Home Providers  
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors  
Private Child Placing Agencies  
Residential Care Center Providers  
Shelter Care Providers  
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Fredi-Elle Bove   
Administrator

Re: Permanent Rules for the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard & the SAFE Home Study

## PURPOSE

The provisions within the Emergency Rule described in DSP Informational Memo Series 2016-35i related to 2015 Act 128, Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard, and 2015 Wisconsin Act 378, requiring the use of a standardized assessment tool to conduct an investigation of an applicant for approval of a placement for adoption, recognition of a foreign adoption, and issuance of a license to operate a foster home have been adopted as Permanent Rule. This impacts the following Department Administrative Rules:

- Ch. DCF 52 Admin. Code Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth
- Ch. DCF 54 Admin. Code Child Placing Agencies
- Ch. DCF 56 Admin. Code Foster Home Care for Children
- Ch. DCF 57 Admin. Code Group Homes
- Ch. DCF 59 Admin. Code Shelter Care Facilities

## BACKGROUND

2015 Wisconsin Act 128: Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard, conforms state statutes with the new federal requirements under H.R. 4980, the Federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 to include a "Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard" requirement for all out-of-home care providers. The Act went into effect on February 6, 2016.

2015 Wisconsin Act 378 requires the use of a standardized assessment tool approved by the department to conduct an investigation of an applicant for approval of a placement for adoption, recognition of a foreign adoption, and issuance of a license to operate a foster home. The Act went into effect on October 1, 2016.

This memo sets forth the requirements for the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard as described in the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act and 2015 WI Act 128, and the requirements for use of a standardized assessment tool set forth in 2015 Wisconsin Act 378.

## **POLICY AND PROCEDURE REQUIREMENTS**

All of the changes outlined above have been included in the following Department Administrative Rules:

- Ch. DCF 52 Admin. Code Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth
- Ch. DCF 54 Admin. Code Child Placing Agencies
- Ch. DCF 56 Admin. Code Foster Home Care for Children
- Ch. DCF 57 Admin. Code Group Homes
- Ch. DCF 59 Admin. Code Shelter Care Facilities

## **eWiSACWIS DOCUMENTATION**

eWiSACWIS has been updated for all functionality related to the changes to the Ch. DCF 56 Admin. Code.

## **ACTION SUMMARY**

The Permanent Rule is effective August 1, 2017. The permanent rule is attached to this memo.

REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT: DCF Area Administrator

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Out-of-Home Care Specialist  
Out-of-Home Care Section  
(608) 422-6937

MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Foster Care Worker Information:

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/fc#plcmnt-resources?accactive=1>  
(Chapter DCF 56)

Child Welfare Licensed Agency Policies and Rules:

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwlicensing/policy#cwlicensing-rules>  
(Chapters DCF 52, 54, 56, 57, 59)