

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P.O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

March 13, 2006

MEMORANDUM

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Closing License of Resource Homes without a Placement for the last 12 months or longer

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS AND CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: PAULA NEESE, INTERIM DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: CLOSING LICENSE OF RESOURCE HOMES WITHOUT A PLACEMENT FOR THE LAST 12 MONTHS OR LONGER

REFERENCE: CHILDREN'S DIVISION

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce changes in policy related to closing of resource homes that have not had a placement for the last 12 months or longer. These changes are located in the Child Welfare Manual Section 6 Chapter 3.

Foster, relative and kinship homes are licensed to provide care to the children in the Division's custody. Homes that are licensed but not accepting placements inflate the numbers of available homes and mask the issue of lack of available placements for children in the Division's custody.

The Division takes the placement of children very seriously and as such want to have licensed only those homes that are actively accepting and providing for alternative care placements. Therefore, the Division is establishing a protocol and guidelines for the closing of licenses for those homes that have not had a placement for the last 12 months or longer.

At the time of license renewal, the Children's Services Worker responsible for licensing should identify those homes which have not had a placement in the last 12 months or longer. Once a home is identified, the worker should contact the family to arrange a face to face meeting. At this meeting, the worker should discuss the reason why the family has not had a placement during the past year or longer.

For foster care providers, the worker should discuss the reason why the foster parent(s) has not had a placement during this time frame as well as discussing the types of children needing foster care placement. The goal should be to work with the family so they are ready to take foster care placements. A plan can be made to address the

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE:

State Code of Regulations Title 13 Division 40 Chapter 60

COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS:

N/A

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN (PIP):

N/A

PN/SW:js