

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 12: Foster Family Home Licensing Section 18: Licensing Denials	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 10

POLICY OVERVIEW

DCS may recommend denying a foster family home (FFH) license or renewal if the applicant does not meet licensing rules or cannot provide a safe and supportive environment for the child.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS may recommend denying the foster family home's (FFH) initial licensure or relicensure application if an FFH applicant:

1. Does not meet the foster care licensing rules or qualifications from Indiana Code (IC), Indiana Administrative Code (IAC), or Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) policies; or
2. Cannot keep the child safe or ensure their well-being.

DCS will not recommend licensing an FFH if there are any safety concerns about placing a child there. A denial:

1. Cannot be made without a signed Application for Foster Family Home License form; and
2. Does not need a full written home study, but extra supporting documentation may be needed.

Note: A license must not be denied just because of a disability. Reasonable accommodations should be made.

After the denial process has started, a licensee may not (without DCS approval):

1. Voluntarily give up the FFH application; or
2. Transfer their application.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 4-21.5-5: Chapter 5. Judicial Review](#)
- [IC 31-27-4-5: Apply for licenses; criminal history checks](#)
- [IC 31-27-4-6: Grounds for denial of license applications; waiver](#)
- [IC 31-27-4-13: Denial of license; notice; administrative hearing upon written request](#)
- [IC 31-27-4-16: Duration of license; limitations; renewal](#)
- [465 IAC 2-1.5: Licensing of Foster Family Homes for Children](#)
- [465 IAC 3-2-2: Administrative review procedure for child care workers and licensed foster parents](#)
- [465 IAC 3-3: Administrative Hearings](#)
- [42 USC 12102: Definition of disability](#)