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|                         | <b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES</b><br><b>CHILD WELFARE POLICY</b> |                   |
| <b>Chapter 12:</b> Foster Family Home Licensing<br><b>Section 11:</b> Foster Family Home Licensing Study |                                                                            |                   |
|                                                                                                          | <b>Effective Date:</b> January 1, 2026                                     | <b>Version:</b> 6 |

## POLICY OVERVIEW

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) must complete or update the foster family home licensing study (licensing study) when:

- A family applies for an initial license
- At each annual review
- At time of relicensure

The licensing study helps to decide if the family can provide a safe, stable, and supportive environment for a child placed in their care.

## POLICY STATEMENT

Foster family home studies will be prepared using the state-approved foster family home licensing study.

The licensing study must be updated by completing an addendum within 30 days when any significant changes occur within the foster family home, such as, but not limited to:

1. Change in address;
2. Change in employment or finances of the foster family;
3. Household members being added or removed from the family composition; and
4. Changes to the living environment affecting the structure of the home.

## LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-27-4-10: Investigation of applicants](#)
- [IC 31-27-4-14: Delegation of investigations](#)