

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 12: Foster Family Home Licensing Section 19: Waivers	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 4

POLICY OVERVIEW

At times, a foster family may face problems or challenges called an “undue hardship”. If this happens, the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) may allow a waiver. A waiver allows an exception to be made around a certain rule and will NOT be detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of any child placed in the home.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS may give a waiver for a Foster Family Home (FFH). This means the FFH does not have to follow an identified rule. Only the Central Office Foster Care Licensing Team can approve a waiver. Waivers can only be given for rules or regulations. They cannot be given for Indiana laws (statutes).

Per Indiana Code, waivers granted or renewed will expire on one (1) of the following dates, whichever comes first:

1. When the FFH license ends;
2. Expiration date set by the Central Office Foster Care Licensing Team;
3. When something happens that DCS said would end the waiver; or
4. Four (4) years after the waiver started.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-27-2-8: Granting of variances and waivers](#)
- [IC 31-27-2-9: Expiration of variances and waivers](#)
- [IC 31-27-2-10: Renewal of variances and waivers](#)
- [IC 31-27-2-11: Revocation of variances and waivers](#)
- [IC 31-27-4-12: Eligibility for waivers and variances](#)
- [465 IAC 2-1.5-9: Physical facilities of the foster family home; bedrooms and bathrooms](#)