

SECTION 6-06: Pre-Approval Training

- (a) A County shall ensure that each applicant completes a minimum of 12 hours of pre-approval training prior to Resource Family Approval.
- (1) An individual may begin pre-approval training no more than 60 days prior to submitting an application.
- (A) An application must be submitted prior to the completion of pre-approval training.
- (b) Pre-approval training shall address the following topics:
- (1) A Resource Family orientation, which includes the requirements set forth in Articles 6, 11, and 11.1.
- (2) An overview of the child protective and probation systems.
- (3) The effects of trauma, including grief and loss, child abuse and neglect, and domestic violence on child development and behavior, and methods to behaviorally support children impacted by that trauma or child abuse and neglect.
- (4) Positive discipline and the importance of self-esteem.
- (5) Common health issues of children and nonminor dependents in foster care.
- (6) Accessing services and supports available to foster children to address education needs, physical, mental, and behavioral health, and substance use disorders, including culturally relevant services.
- (7) Personal rights of children and nonminor dependents in foster care including the Resource Family's responsibility to safeguard those rights, including the right to have fair and equal access to all available services, placement, care, treatment, and benefits, and to not be subjected to discrimination or harassment on the basis of actual or perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability, or HIV status.
- (8) Cultural needs of children, including instruction on cultural competency and sensitivity, and related best practices for providing adequate care for children or youth across diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds, as well as children or youth identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.
- (9) Basic instruction on existing laws and procedures regarding the safety of foster youth at school; and ensuring a harassment and violence free school environment pursuant to Article 3.6 (commencing with Section 32228) of Chapter 2 of Part 19 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the Education Code.
- (10) Permanence, well-being, and education needs of children, including the importance of the Resource Family's role in education, educational protections specific to foster youth under state and federal law, and the rights and obligations of Resource Families to access and maintain educational and health information, including the requirements of Education Code sections 49069.3, 49076, and 56055 and Welfare and Institutions Code section 16010.
- (11) Child and adolescent development, including sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression.
- (12) The role of a Resource Family, including working cooperatively with the child welfare agency or probation department, a child's family, and other service providers and agencies to develop and implement the child's or nonminor dependent's case plan.

- (13) The role of a Resource Family on the child and family team as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code section 16501(a)(4).
- (14) Knowledge and skills relating to the reasonable and prudent parent standard, as specified in Health and Safety Code section 1522.44.
- (15) An overview of the specialized training described in Welfare and Institutions Code section 16519.5(h).
- (16) Options for permanency.
- (17) Birth parent relationships and safety issues regarding contact.
- (18) The rights of children and nonminor dependents to sexual and reproductive health care and information and to confidentiality of sensitive health information.
- (19) The duties and responsibilities of the Resource Family in ensuring children and nonminor dependents can obtain sexual and reproductive health services and information.
- (20) Guidance about how to engage and talk with children and nonminor dependents about healthy sexual development and reproductive and sexual health in a manner that is medically accurate, age or developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed, and strengths-based.
- (21) Information about current contraception methods and how to select and provide appropriate referral resources and materials for information and service delivery.
- (22) The role of a Resource Family as a mandated reporter, including training on child abuse and neglect identification, and abuse and neglect reporting, as defined in Penal Code section 11166.
 - (A) As part of the training described in paragraph (22), a County shall provide a copy of Penal code sections 11165.7, 11166, and 11167.
 - (B) Once training has been completed, an applicant shall submit a signed statement on a form provided by the County, verifying that the applicant has knowledge of child abuse and neglect reporting responsibilities pursuant to provisions of Penal Code section 11166, and confidentiality rights under subdivision (d) of section 11167, and agrees to comply with those provisions.

(c) A County may require an applicant to receive relevant specialized training, as specified in Welfare and Institutions Code section 16519.5(h), to meet the needs of a particular child or nonminor dependent.

(d) A County shall provide an applicant with pre-approval training or shall require that an applicant complete pre-approval training provided by qualified sources that may include colleges, hospitals, foster parent associations, adult schools, certified foster parent instructors, and online sources.

(1) When a County does not provide the pre-approval training, the County shall provide an applicant with information as to where the training is available.

(2) Upon request of an applicant, a County shall make efforts to assist the applicant with accessing training.

- (1) A certificate or other form of documentation of completed training shall include the following:
 - (A) The name or topic of the training.
 - (B) The name of the individual(s) who completed the training.
 - (C) The date training was completed.
 - (D) The number of training hours completed.

A County may assist an applicant with completing training requirements, such as offering one-on-one training in the home (as determined necessary by the RFA worker) or providing child care or transportation stipends.

(e) Nothing in this section shall preclude a County from requiring an applicant to complete pre-approval training hours in excess of the requirements in this section or as required by state law for any specialized training.

(f) Upon the applicant's completion of pre-approval training, as well as any required additional training, a County shall provide documentation of the completed training to the applicant(s).

(1) A certificate or other form of documentation of completed training shall include the following:

- (A) The name or topic of the training.
- (B) The name of the individual(s) who completed the training.
- (C) The date training was completed.
- (D) The number of training hours completed.