

Policy Number:		Effective/Revision Date:	4/27/2019
Policy Title:	Smoke Free Environment Policy		
Policy:	It is the policy of Extraordinary Families to promote the wellbeing of all children and youth who are under the supervision of the agency in foster care. This includes ensuring all certified/approved resource families provide a <i>smoke free environment</i> for any child placed in their home.		
Purpose:	To define “smoking” and “smoke free environment” and ensure resource families understand their responsibility to uphold the law and provide a smoke free environment.		
Responsibilities:	Direct Service Staff and Supervisors, Director of Programs		
Reference/ Relevant Documents:	Reference:		

DEFINITION

Smoking means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, or pipe, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, whether natural or synthetic, in any manner or in any form. ‘Smoking’ includes the use of an electronic smoking device that creates an aerosol or vapor, in any manner or in any form, or the use of any oral smoking device for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of smoking.

SUMMARY

More than 400,000 children live with resource families in the United States. These children face a disproportionate number of health-related challenges due to their history of physical or emotional abuse, neglect, malnutrition, or in-utero alcohol or drug exposure. Over half of these children have at least one chronic medical condition, with serious respiratory illness highly common.

Research shows that second-hand smoke exposure is a known cause of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death, potentially fatal respiratory infections, frequent and severe asthma attacks, and frequent ear infections. Children in foster care may be more susceptible to such outcomes due to pre-existing medical conditions.

Due to these risks, the state of California passed legislation (AB 352, effective September 2013), amending the Health and Safety Code to include a section (1530.7) that:

- Requires all care providers licensed to provide foster care services to maintain a “smoke-free environment;”
- Bans all care providers licensed to provide foster care services from smoking or permitting any other person to smoke inside the home (including other enclosed spaces connected to the home, such as a garage, porch, or deck,) and, when the child is present, outside of the home; and
- Bans all care providers licensed to provide foster care services from smoking or allowing any other person to smoke in any motor vehicle that is used to transport a child.

Further, any person who violates the act, or who willfully or repeatedly violates any rule or regulation promulgated under the act, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Assessment

The Home Study will include an assessment of the prospective parents’ capacity to meet the needs of a child and their home environment, which includes assessing their capacity to provide a smoke-free environment. Applicants are required

P&P: No Smoking Policy; Last Updated 8/8/19

to disclose whether they smoke, and if so, what, how often, and where they smoke. They must further define a plan to provide a smoke-free environment for children in their home, anywhere on their property, and in their vehicles.

The resource family is responsible for notifying EF whenever a parent or additional household member begins smoking and update and submit their Smoke-Free Environment Plan for approval. Any change in circumstances regarding smoking will be included in the next Home Study Update.

Daycare, Respite, and Visitors

This policy applies to visiting friends or relatives of the resource family or any other visitor to the home or property of the home who smokes, as well as to any daycare, babysitter, or respite provider. The resource family is responsible for enforcing this policy as it applies to these individuals.

Storage and Disposal

For households with one or more smokers, all smoke paraphernalia must be kept locked and inaccessible to children *at all times*. Smoke paraphernalia includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Tobacco
- Cigarettes
- Dry or water pipes and any other device used as a conduit to smoke
- Vaporizers
- Marijuana
- Papers, blunt wraps, filters, and/or tips
- Lighters
- Ashtrays

Smoke paraphernalia may not be locked with medication. It must be locked in a separate container/area. Waste generated from smoking, such as cigarette butts and ashes, must also be disposed of immediately and kept out of reach of children *at all times*.

Violation

Extraordinary Families enforces the Smoke-Free Environment legislation and this policy to the fullest extent and in the best interest of all children. Any prospective parent found unable to maintain a smoke-free environment may not be approved. Any certified/approved parent found in repeated violation of this policy may have their license revoked and may be reported to DCFS and/or Community Care Licensing.

