

# Child Specific License Webinar FAQ

## Child Specific Applications

**Q:** If applicants are applying for a specific child, but are interested in general FC in the near future (within the next 3 years), would we license for general or child specific?

**A:** If the applicants' meet the general foster care requirements in [WAC 110-148](#) (including CCT pre-service), you may issue a general foster family home license. If the applicants' require non-safety exemption (for relatives) or a waiver (for suitable other) using [DCYF Form 15-411G](#), a child specific license would be appropriate.

**Q:** Can a suitable other get an exemption for First Aid-CPR if the child is over two years old and not medically fragile?

**A:** Because a suitable other is not a relative of specified degree, they would be eligible for the exception, but it would be processed as a waiver with [DCYF Form 15-411G](#)

**Q:** Can we assess the family for both Child Specific and for general foster care? If approved for both, would this still be a Child Specific License or General Foster care?

**A:** If the family is interested in caring for other children and they meet the requirements in [WAC 110-148](#) (including CCT pre-service), a general foster license may be issued. If the family meets the requirements and are only interested in caring for their kin, a child specific license may be issued.

**Q:** If a family is getting a child specific license and the children placed in the home move out does the license close or does it remain open in case those same children are placed back in this home?

**A:** Because [RCW 74.15.100](#) requires the license to be issued for a period of three years, we are not able to close the license without the licensed caregiver's agreement.

**Q:** Is the age range for a child specific license is based only on the ages of dependent children placed/being placed OR is it to include ages of bio or other children in the home?

**A:** Age capacity is the age of the youngest child in out of home care up to the age of the oldest child in out of home care, plus three years (not to exceed 18). It would not include the ages of other household children.



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

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**Q:** Will there be some guidance on what the language should look like in the home study recommendations for a child specific license?

**A:** A kinship license is child specific assessment and wouldn't have a statement about capacity (number and age of children). We name the children in the Evaluation section and in the HS Outcome will be Recommended for placement, kinship license, and/or adoption.

**Q:** If I have a placement, how long does a family have to get their Kinship License?

**A:** When a child is placed in the home, the home is to be licensed in 120 days. If the family has an initial license, the family has 90 days to be licensed.

## Training

**Q:** Are we able to transition kinship caregivers from CCT to KCT once they have started CCT or do they need to finish it?

**A:** Kinship caregivers may transition to KCT if they are seeking a child specific license.

**Q:** If a kinship caregivers starts as general licensed with CCT but then wants a child specific license, will we accept a partially completed CCT, or would they need to take the two modules for KCT?

**A:** If the kinship caregiver has not completed CCT, they would need to complete KCT for the child specific license within the first licensing cycle. If they have completed CCT, we would accept that for a child specific license.

**Q:** If a caregiver with a child specific license wants to change their license to general foster care to accept placement of all children, would they need to take CCT or would KCT count as the training requirement for a general license?

**A:** Kinship caregivers who want to change from child specific license to general foster license, they would need to meet all the requirements of [WAC 110-148](#). Which mean that all non-safety exemptions would need to be resolved and all training requirements met. They would need to complete the full CCT hours (24 hours, which also includes the coaching session). LD would accept the 6 hours of KCT completion as the ongoing continuing education training requirements.

**Q:** If a kinship caregiver completed CCT other than the support session, can they be issued and KCT certificate of completion since the support session is not required for KCT?

**A:** Yes. KCT does not require the support session and CCT meets the requirements of KCT. If the kinship caregiver wants a certificate of completion for CCT, they we need to complete the required support session.

**Q:** Can a CPA require additional trainings for a kinship caregiver?

**A:** While CPAs are allowed to require additional trainings, the expectation for CPAs who work with kinship caregivers is that they will not require additional trainings for them unless it is directly related to the needs of a specific child.

## Income

**Q:** If a caregiver does not have sufficient financial resources to meet the needs of a child placed in their home, will the home study be denied or will we have other options?

**A:** We will not deny a home study for a kinship caregiver based on their financial resources. A non-safety exemption (for relative) or waiver (for suitable other) may be approved for a child specific license. Staff any case specific questions with your regional licensor.

**Q:** If a caregiver has no income can we do a waiver based on the foster payment they will receive once they are licensed.

**A:** The assessment should reflect how the family is meeting their needs today. A non-safety exemption (for relative) or waiver (for suitable other) may be approved for a child specific license. Staff any case specific questions with your regional licensor.

**Q:** Can we accept promissory notes from applicants' family and or friends?

**A:** Yes, for kinship caregivers we are able to accept alternative forms of income resources. A non-safety exemption (for relative) or waiver (for suitable other) may be approved for a child specific license. Staff any case specific questions with your regional licensor.

**Q:** Will the foster care reimbursement be the same rate for a child specific license?

**A:** Yes.

## Intakes

**Q:** Will LD/CPS for child specific licenses work the same way as they do now?

**A:** LD/CPS investigations are investigations for Child Abuse/Neglect. So, yes, they will be screened and work the same way that they do now following [RCW 26.44](#). The piece that will change is the investigation of any associated licensing complaint WAC violation. CPA staff who investigate foster home licensing complaints will need to be aware of any non-safety exemptions/waivers that apply to the license when looking at any potential violations of a Non-CPS nature.

**Q:** How do Non-CPS intakes work on these homes?

**A:** Similar to the answer above, CPA staff investigating complaints will need to be aware of any non-safety exemptions on the home prior to investigating Non-CPS intakes. The investigation should follow a similar approach but depending upon the issue there is a greater focus on remediation and technical assistance.

## Child Specific Licensing Letter

**Q:** Will the child's name be on in the Licensing letter?

**A:** No. Child specific information will be included in the home study but will not be on the letter or license.

**Q:** If no, please explain why the child specific license letter does not include the names of the children the license is approved for so that it is clear who can be placed in the home?

**A:** Once a child specific license is issued, that home is placed on a voluntary no-referral and will not be included on any vacancy reports. The child's name is not necessary on the letter or license.

## Modifications

**Q:** What is the timeline for a modification when there is a change in circumstance?

**A:** There are no modifications for a child specific license. It requires a new assessment. If a new assessment is required due to a change in circumstance, A CPA would have to update the home study with any necessary changes.

## WAC

**Q:** Is WAC 110-148-1326 **Can I get a license to care for a specific child, and what are the requirements?** going to be added to **WAC 110-148** on August 1st?

**A:** WAC 110-148-1326 went into effect on August 25, 2022.

## Non-Safety Exemptions

**Q:** What is the guidance on applying non-safety exemptions? For example, do we ask the families for all of the regular info first and then if they do not get it to us, we ask for exemptions?

**A:** All WACs identified on the non-safety exemption list (**DCYF Form 15-411G**) must be reviewed for all kinship caregivers to determine if the WAC is **a)** applicable to the family/household **b)** if the caregiver meets the WAC requirement or **c)** if a non-safety exemption (for relatives) or waiver (for suitable other) needs to be applied/approved. It is imperative that all kinship caregivers are considered for all exemptions to ensure an equitable process.

**Q:** Is the rule of thumb that we ask kinship caregivers to complete all licensing requirements and then complete the non-safety exemptions at the end of the assessment process, if the kinship provider has not been able to meet the requirement or does LD even ask them to complete the licensing requirements?

**A:** It is important to let the kinship caregiver know at the beginning of the assessment, that the non-safety exemptions are available to them, if needed to reduce barriers to becoming licensed.

**Q:** Can you provide some clarification on the relative non-safety exemptions for influenza/pertussis, as well as current immunizations for any child living in the household?

**A:** **WAC 110-148-1320 (5) and (6)** were both added to the list of non-safety exemptions because these requirements were not considered a safety concern in an unlicensed home. By allowing for the non-safety exemption, we are reducing barriers to kinship caregivers receiving a child specific license.

**Q:** Are we now allowed to request an exemption based on kinship caregivers' personal choice to not vaccinate or receive these shots, or is this still just when there is a medical exemption?

**A:** For kinship caregivers, it may be a personal choice or medical exemption as long as there is not a safety issue for the specific child(ren) in care.

## **WA CAP**

**Q:** Many applicants want to show they are going "above and beyond" requirements for a child specific license. Will we be able to enter the info in Binti so that it is documented?

**A:** Yes, once WA CAP is launched, applicants will still be able to provide requirements that are not exempted.

**Q:** Will Binti be able to do notifications by text message rather than email?

**A:** No, at this time WA CAP notifications are through email.

## **Pending Applications**

**Q:** On pending applications, do we apply new forms/protocol or do we finish the application with the current forms?

**A:** CPAs are to use new forms with the expectation of the home study. This will change once CPA's have been trained on the new home study process. Please refer to the **CPA Migration Plan** for further information.

**Q:** When renewing a general license that was child specific, can the family switch to a kinship license?

**A:** When submitting the renewal application, they can indicate Kinship License renewal instead of a general license renewal and be switched in WA CAP.

**Q:** If a caregiver has a general Foster care license and needs to do an adoption update for a specific child, will their license change to a child specific license?

**A:** No, not if they are licensed for general foster care.

## General

**Q:** Will there be any guidance around a parent AND their dependent children living with a kinship caregiver or regularly staying overnight to spend more time with their children?

**A:** Currently all household members must pass a background check for placement purposes. The home study assessment would depend on the child welfare case plan for the specific children/family. For specific cases, consult with your Regional Licensor.

**Q:** Wondering if there is any guidance on how we convey to relatives why they should be getting licensed, or a handout that shows the differences, benefits, limitations, resources available for licensed relatives vs. unlicensed?

**A:** [DCYF Publication LIC\\_0017 Foster Care Licensing for Kinship Caregivers](#) is available on the forms/publication drive. This is useful for both Assessment and CPA's who are licensing Kinship caregivers.

**Q:** Can we request for concrete goods prior to becoming licensed?

**A:** If an application for a Kinship License has been submitted to Licensing Division, then concrete goods can be requested through your Regional Licensor.

## CPAs With BRS Contracts

**Q:** How does BRS contracts work with kinship licenses?

**A:** Just because a CPA has a BRS contract, that does not mean all of their homes are BRS homes. If a home has a kinship license and is used as a BRS Contracts home for a BRS relative placement, the home must meet all of the BRS Contracts requirements. The CPA can ask for additional trainings such as Behavioral Management training or even CCT instead of KCT if the CPA decides this. However, LD does not require CCT for the purpose of licensing.

If a home has a kinship license and is used for a BRS level relative placement without BRS Contracts, then the department would most likely provide in-home services and the kinship license is not subject to BRS Contracts requirements including additional training.