

237.4 License required — exceptions.

An individual or an agency shall not provide child foster care unless the individual or agency is a licensee. However, a license under [this chapter](#) is not required of the following:

1. An individual providing child foster care for a total of not more than twenty days in one calendar year.
2. A residential care facility licensed under [chapter 135C](#) which is approved for the care of children.
3. A hospital licensed under [chapter 135B](#).
4. A health care facility licensed under [chapter 135C](#).
5. A juvenile detention home or juvenile shelter care home approved under [section 232.142](#).
6. An institution listed in [section 218.1](#).
7. A facility licensed under [chapter 125](#).
8. An individual providing child care as a babysitter at the request of a parent, guardian, fictive kin, or relative having lawful custody of the child.

[C27, 31, 35, §3661-a49; C39, §3661.063; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, §237.8; C81, §237.4; [82 Acts, ch 1016, §2](#)]

[84 Acts, ch 1050, §1](#); [87 Acts, ch 44, §2](#); [2023 Acts, ch 19, §728](#); [2025 Acts, ch 135, §15, 16](#)

Unnumbered paragraph 1 amended
Subsection 8 amended