

441—125.2(237) Application for approval.

125.2(1) *Right to apply.* A relative or fictive kin of a child who has been court-ordered to placement in the relative or fictive kin's care can apply for kinship foster care approval. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

125.2(2) *Referrals.* A relative or fictive kin caregiver wishing to apply for kinship foster care approval shall be referred by the department or the department's contractor for kinship navigator services. The department's recruitment and retention contractor in the applicable service area shall provide the application packet and assist in completing the approval process with the applicant.

125.2(3) *Decision to operate a kinship foster home.* When an applicant decides to operate a kinship foster family home, the applicant shall complete the Kinship Foster Care Approval Application.

125.2(4) *Withdrawal of an application.* The applicant shall report the withdrawal of an application promptly to the department.

125.2(5) *Evaluation of the application.* Each application will be evaluated by the department to ensure that all standards are met.

a. Before it results in adverse action, a founded child abuse report of a kinship foster parent applicant will be evaluated by the department to determine if the founded abuse merits prohibition of approval.

b. The department will evaluate founded child abuse reports on a case-by-case basis. Considerations the department will take include but are not limited to whether the abuse was an isolated incident or is symptomatic of a broader, systemic problem.

125.2(6) *Reports and information.* The applicant shall furnish all requested reports and information relevant to the approval determination to the department.

125.2(7) *Applications for reapproval.* The department or its agent will send an application for reapproval 90 days before the approval expires. Applications for reapproval shall be made on the form specified in subrule 125.2(3).

a. Applications for reapproval shall be made no less than 30 days but no more than 90 days before the approval expires.

b. Applications for reapproval of a kinship foster family approval shall be submitted to the recruitment and retention contractor.

c. The department will approve or deny an application for reapproval as described in rules 441—125.3(237) and 441—125.4(237).

125.2(8) *Notification.* The department will notify an applicant of the approval or denial of an initial application within 60 days of the date that the applicant is referred to the recruitment and retention contractor. The department will notify an applicant regarding reapproval within 30 days of the expiration of the initial approval.

125.2(9) *Approval.* Approved kinship foster caregiver applicants will be approved for a term of two years.

a. Thereafter, the caregiver shall apply for reapproval every two years based on the requirements of subrule 125.2(7).

b. A new notice of approval is required any time the caregiver moves to a new home.

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