

441—113.14(237) Reference checks.

113.14(1) At least three additional unsolicited references shall be checked for all foster family home applicants in addition to a minimum of three references provided by the applicant. Required references shall include a minimum of one relative and one nonrelative.

113.14(2) Responses of references shall be documented in the applicant's record.

113.14(3) Information received from references may be discussed with the applicant at the discretion of the worker. The reference shall be so informed.

113.14(4) Reference checks shall include only those areas related to the applicant's ability to care for children and should include discussion of the following areas:

- a.* How long and in what capacity the reference has known the applicant.
- b.* Personal qualities of the applicant including the general character, ability to get along with others, ability to deal with the child(ren)'s problem behavior, ability to give affection and care, discussion of use of drugs and alcohol, and questions regarding personal difficulties that could be detrimental to the child(ren).
- c.* Relationship stability.
- d.* How the applicant handles anger, problems, crisis situations, discipline, and disappointments.
- e.* Any areas of general concern not previously mentioned.
- f.* Would the reference feel comfortable leaving the child(ren) in this home for a period of time?
- g.* Recommendations regarding licensing.

113.14(5) When warranted, additional references may be sought after licensure.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 237.3.

[**ARC 8010B**, IAB 7/29/09, effective 10/1/09; **ARC 3185C**, IAB 7/5/17, effective 9/1/17; **ARC 5064C**, IAB 7/1/20, effective 9/1/20; **ARC 6961C**, IAB 4/5/23, effective 6/1/23]