



townhall.virginia.gov

Fast-Track Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	State Board of Social Services
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	22VAC40-131
VAC Chapter title(s)	Standards for Licensed Child-Placing Agencies
Action title	Regulatory Reduction for Standards for Licensed Child-Placing Agencies
Date this document prepared	June 18, 2025

This information is required for executive branch review and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations, pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), Executive Order 19 (2022) (EO 19), any instructions or procedures issued by the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM) or the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) pursuant to EO 19, the Regulations for Filing and Publishing Agency Regulations (1 VAC 7-10), and the *Form and Style Requirements for the Virginia Register of Regulations and Virginia Administrative Code*.

Brief Summary

Provide a brief summary (preferably no more than 2 or 3 paragraphs) of this regulatory change (i.e., new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or repeal of an existing regulation). Alert the reader to all substantive matters. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

The *Standards for Licensed Child-Placing Agencies*, 22VAC40-131, provide requirements for the public and Department of Social Services to evaluate the safety and stability of care provided to children and youth from licensed child-placing agencies.

This action proposes technical edits and amendments that reduce regulatory burden on licensed child-placing agencies by clarifying and removing repetitive, obsolete, and overly prescriptive requirements in accordance with [Executive Directive One](#) (2022) and [Executive Order 19](#) (2022). The amendments will also provide consistency with the *Foster and Adoptive Home Approval Standards for Local Departments of Social Services*, 22VAC40-211 and the definitions in § 63.2-100 of the Code of Virginia.

Acronyms and Definitions

Define all acronyms used in this form, and any technical terms that are not also defined in the "Definitions" section of the regulation.

DSS—Department of Social Services
LCPA—Licensed Child-Placing Agencies

Statement of Final Agency Action

Provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including: 1) the date the action was taken; 2) the name of the agency taking the action; and 3) the title of the regulation.

The State Board of Social Services approved this fast-track regulatory action to amend 22VAC40-131: *Standards for Licensed Child-Placing Agencies* on June 18, 2025.

Mandate and Impetus

Identify the mandate for this regulatory change and any other impetus that specifically prompted its initiation (e.g., new or modified mandate, petition for rulemaking, periodic review, or board decision). For purposes of executive branch review, "mandate" has the same meaning as defined in the ORM procedures, "a directive from the General Assembly, the federal government, or a court that requires that a regulation be promulgated, amended, or repealed in whole or part."

Consistent with Virginia Code § 2.2-4012.1, also explain why this rulemaking is expected to be noncontroversial and therefore appropriate for the fast-track rulemaking process.

There is no mandate for this regulatory change. This regulatory action is prompted by Executive Directive One (2022) and Executive Order 19 (2022) requiring the reduction of regulatory requirements "not mandated by federal or state statute, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, and in a manner consistent with the laws of the Commonwealth."

This regulatory action is expected to be noncontroversial, provide clarification, and reduce regulatory burden.

Legal Basis

Identify (1) the promulgating agency, and (2) the state and/or federal legal authority for the regulatory change, including the most relevant citations to the Code of Virginia and Acts of Assembly chapter number(s), if applicable. Your citation must include a specific provision, if any, authorizing the promulgating agency to regulate this specific subject or program, as well as a reference to the agency's overall regulatory authority.

The State Board of Social Services has the legal authority to adopt regulations and requirements for LCPA in accordance with § 63.2-217, 63.2-901.1, 63.2-904, 63.2-1700, 63.2-1709.2, 63.2-1723, 63.2-1734, and 63.2-1736. The Code of Virginia mandates that promulgation of regulations for the activities, services, and facilities to be employed by persons and agencies required to be licensed which shall be

designed to ensure that activities, services, and facilities are conducive for the welfare of children and youth placed with LPCA.

Purpose

Explain the need for the regulatory change, including a description of: (1) the rationale or justification, (2) the specific reasons the regulatory change is essential to protect the health, safety or welfare of citizens, and (3) the goals of the regulatory change and the problems it is intended to solve.

This regulatory action amends the regulation in accordance with Executive Directive One (2022) and Executive Order 19 (2022) and is essential to protect the health, safety, and welfare of children and families who receives services from LPCA. The amendments will provide clarification to existing requirements and reduce regulatory burden.

Substance

Briefly identify and explain the new substantive provisions, the substantive changes to existing sections, or both. A more detailed discussion is provided in the "Detail of Changes" section below.

This regulatory action will incorporate technical edits and revisions for clarification and reduce regulatory burden. The amendments will repeal sections that are duplicative and overly prescriptive.

Issues

Identify the issues associated with the regulatory change, including: 1) the primary advantages and disadvantages to the public, such as individual private citizens or businesses, of implementing the new or amended provisions; 2) the primary advantages and disadvantages to the agency or the Commonwealth; and 3) other pertinent matters of interest to the regulated community, government officials, and the public. If there are no disadvantages to the public or the Commonwealth, include a specific statement to that effect.

The primary advantage with this regulatory change is that it provides clarification for ease of understanding and reduces regulatory burden for LPCA. There are no disadvantages for LPCA as there are no new regulatory requirements added in this regulatory action. There are no advantages or disadvantages to the public as this regulatory action does not eliminate or add requirements for the public.

There are no disadvantages to the agency or the Commonwealth. The advantage to the agency is that this regulatory action provides clarification and reduces regulatory burden on LPCA, which may result in an increased understanding of regulations and laws.

Requirements More Restrictive than Federal

Identify and describe any requirement of the regulatory change which is more restrictive than applicable federal requirements. Include a specific citation for each applicable federal requirement, and a rationale for the need for the more restrictive requirements. If there are no applicable federal requirements, or no requirements that exceed applicable federal requirements, include a specific statement to that effect.

There are no regulatory changes that are more restrictive than applicable federal requirements.

Agencies, Localities, and Other Entities Particularly Affected

Consistent with § 2.2-4007.04 of the Code of Virginia, identify any other state agencies, localities, or other entities particularly affected by the regulatory change. Other entities could include local partners such as tribal governments, school boards, community services boards, and similar regional organizations. "Particularly affected" are those that are likely to bear any identified disproportionate material impact which would not be experienced by other agencies, localities, or entities. "Locality" can refer to either local governments or the locations in the Commonwealth where the activities relevant to the regulation or regulatory change are most likely to occur. If no agency, locality, or entity is particularly affected, include a specific statement to that effect.

Other State Agencies Particularly Affected

There are no other state agencies particularly affected.

Localities Particularly Affected

There are no other localities particularly affected.

Other Entities Particularly Affected

There are no other entities particularly affected.

Economic Impact

Consistent with § 2.2-4007.04 of the Code of Virginia, identify all specific economic impacts (costs and/or benefits), anticipated to result from the regulatory change. When describing a particular economic impact, specify which new requirement or change in requirement creates the anticipated economic impact. Keep in mind that this is the proposed change versus the status quo.

Impact on State Agencies

<i>For your agency:</i> projected costs, savings, fees or revenues resulting from the regulatory change, including: a) fund source / fund detail; b) delineation of one-time versus on-going expenditures; and c) whether any costs or revenue loss can be absorbed within existing resources	There are no projected costs, savings, fees or revenues resulting from this regulatory action.
<i>For other state agencies:</i> projected costs, savings, fees or revenues resulting from the regulatory change, including a delineation of one-time versus on-going expenditures.	There are no projected costs, savings, fees or revenues resulting from this regulatory action.
<i>For all agencies:</i> Benefits the regulatory change is designed to produce.	There are no economic benefits with this regulator change.

Impact on Localities

If this analysis has been reported on the ORM Economic Impact form, indicate the tables (1a or 2) on which it was reported. Information provided on that form need not be repeated here.

Projected costs, savings, fees or revenues resulting from the regulatory change.	Analysis provided on the ORM Economic Impact form on tables 1a and 2.
Benefits the regulatory change is designed to produce.	Analysis provided on the ORM Economic Impact form on tables 1a and 2.

Impact on Other Entities

If this analysis has been reported on the ORM Economic Impact form, indicate the tables (1a, 3, or 4) on which it was reported. Information provided on that form need not be repeated here.

Description of the individuals, businesses, or other entities likely to be affected by the regulatory change. If no other entities will be affected, include a specific statement to that effect.	Analysis provided on the ORM Economic Impact form on tables 1a, 3, and 4.
Agency's best estimate of the number of such entities that will be affected. Include an estimate of the number of small businesses affected. Small business means a business entity, including its affiliates, that: a) is independently owned and operated and; b) employs fewer than 500 full-time employees or has gross annual sales of less than \$6 million.	Analysis provided on the ORM Economic Impact form on tables 1a, 3, and 4.
All projected costs for affected individuals, businesses, or other entities resulting from the regulatory change. Be specific and include all costs including, but not limited to: a) projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for compliance by small businesses; b) specify any costs related to the development of real estate for commercial or residential purposes that are a consequence of the regulatory change; c) fees; d) purchases of equipment or services; and e) time required to comply with the requirements.	Analysis provided on the ORM Economic Impact form on tables 1a, 3, and 4.
Benefits the regulatory change is designed to produce.	Analysis provided on the ORM Economic Impact form on tables 1a, 3, and 4.

Alternatives to Regulation

Describe any viable alternatives to the regulatory change that were considered, and the rationale used by the agency to select the least burdensome or intrusive alternative that meets the essential purpose of the regulatory change. Also, include discussion of less intrusive or less costly alternatives for small businesses, as defined in § 2.2-4007.1 of the Code of Virginia, of achieving the purpose of the regulatory change.

Analysis provided on the ORM Economic Impact form on tables 1b and 4.

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

Consistent with § 2.2-4007.1 B of the Code of Virginia, describe the agency's analysis of alternative regulatory methods, consistent with health, safety, environmental, and economic welfare, that will accomplish the objectives of applicable law while minimizing the adverse impact on small business. Alternative regulatory methods include, at a minimum: 1) establishing less stringent compliance or reporting requirements; 2) establishing less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements; 3) consolidation or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements; 4) establishing performance standards for small businesses to replace design or operational standards required in the proposed regulation; and 5) the exemption of small businesses from all or any part of the requirements contained in the regulatory change.

Analysis provided on the ORM Economic Impact form on table 1c.

Public Participation

Indicate how the public should contact the agency to submit comments on this regulation, and whether a public hearing will be held, by completing the text below.

Consistent with § 2.2-4011 of the Code of Virginia, if an objection to the use of the fast-track process is received within the 30-day public comment period from 10 or more persons, any member of the applicable standing committee of either house of the General Assembly or of the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules, the agency shall: 1) file notice of the objections with the Registrar of Regulations for publication in the Virginia Register and 2) proceed with the normal promulgation process with the initial publication of the fast-track regulation serving as the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action.

If you are objecting to the use of the fast-track process as the means of promulgating this regulation, please clearly indicate your objection in your comment. Please also indicate the nature of, and reason for, your objection to using this process.

The Department of Social Services is providing an opportunity for comments on this regulatory proposal, including but not limited to (i) the costs and benefits of the regulatory proposal and any alternative approaches, (ii) the potential impacts of the regulation, and (iii) the agency's regulatory flexibility analysis stated in this background document.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments for the public comment file may do so through the Public Comment Forums feature of the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall web site at: <https://townhall.virginia.gov>. Comments may also be submitted by mail, email or fax to Alisa Foley, 5600 Cox Road, Glen Allen, Virginia 23060, (fax) 804-726-7132, and email: a.foley@dss.virginia.gov. In order to be considered, comments must be received by 11:59 pm on the last day of the public comment period.

No public hearing will be held.

Detail of Changes

List all regulatory changes and the consequences of the changes. Explain the new requirements and what they mean rather than merely quoting the text of the regulation. For example, describe the intent of the language and the expected impact. Describe the difference between existing requirement(s) and/or

agency practice(s) and what is being proposed in this regulatory change. Use all tables that apply but delete inapplicable tables.

If an existing VAC Chapter(s) is being amended or repealed, use Table 1 to describe the changes between existing VAC Chapter(s) and the proposed regulation. If existing VAC Chapter(s) or sections are being repealed and replaced, ensure Table 1 clearly shows both the current number and the new number for each repealed section and the replacement section.

Table 1: Changes to Existing VAC Chapter(s)

Current chapter-section number	New chapter-section number, if applicable	Current requirements in VAC	Change, intent, rationale, and likely impact of new requirements
Throughout chapter		The terms “he, his, and him” are used. The terms “written and electronic” are used when describing documents and files. The term “case worker.”	Replaced the term with the individual the regulation requirement applies to for clarification. Removed the terms as it is no longer needed to differentiate between written (hardcopy) and electronic files for clarification. Replaced the term with caseworker as a technical edit and to be consistent of how the term is used throughout the regulation.
10		This section addresses definitions.	Revised the following definitions to correspond with the definition in § 63.2-100 of the Code of Virginia: • “Child” • “Child-placing agency” • “Foster care placement” • “Independent living arrangement” • “Independent living services” Removed the definition of “dual approval process” because the term is not used in this regulation.
30		This section addresses the sponsorship of a licensed child-placing agency.	Added that the sponsor shall have knowledge and experience in the programs and services the child-placing agency offers to remove this repetitive requirement in this section. Moved the requirement in subdivision 6 that the trustee shall maintain the legal and operational responsibility for the licensed child-placing agency due to removing the repetitive requirement that the trustee must have knowledge and experience in programs and services for ease of understanding.

40		This section addresses the responsibilities of the licensee.	Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee shall be of good character and reputation as this is addressed in § 63.2-1702 and 22VAC40-80-20 C. Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee shall make available reports and records during an inspection to determine compliance and interview employees and individuals under the custody, control or supervision of the licensee as this is addressed in § 63.2-1706 A and 22VAC40-80-160 D and E. Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee shall make and implement necessary revisions to its policies and procedures as this requirement is addressed in subdivisions J 1 and 2 of this section and 22VAC40-131-90. Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee shall ensure that the information and material distributed to the public contains accurate and updated information as this is addressed in § 63.2-1713. Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee shall provide interventions and follow-up services as this requirement is addressed in the subsection M of this section.
50		This section addresses the requirements of office settings and conditions.	Incorporated subdivision B 2 into subdivision B 1 of this section for clarification that the licensee shall ensure safekeeping of confidential records and information.
60		This section addresses the requirement of posting the license.	Repealed section 60, removed the repetitive requirement of posting the license as it is addressed in § 63.2-1701 and 22VAC40-80-120 E.
80		This section addresses the licensed capacity and caseload requirements.	Revised that the total approved caseload for a full-time caseworker is no more than 25 children for clarification. Removed the requirement of the trainee maximum caseload restrictions as it is unnecessary. The trainee maximum caseload restrictions for treatment foster care is addressed in subdivision B 2 c of this section.

			Removed that the treatment foster care caseload of less than full-time caseworker shall be proportional to the time spent providing casework services. This reduces regulatory burden on the licensee and will not impact the safety and well-being of children as caseload maximums are not impacted by removing this requirement. Added the term “as determined by the supervisor” for treatment foster care caseloads, to be consistent with the requirement in 12VAC30-130-920, <i>Amount, Duration and Scope of Selected Services</i>. Incorporated subdivision B 2 c (2) into B 2 c (1) of this section to provide clarification that the one-year experienced trainee shall serve no more than nine children, and this change is consistent with 12VAC30-130-920, <i>Amount, Duration and Scope of Selected Services</i>. Revised the regulation citation in this section to correspond with the revisions. Removed the repetitive requirement that caseloads shall be reviewed and updated annually as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-460.
90		This section addresses the licensed child-placing agency policies and procedures.	Incorporated that policies and procedures must address the management of all records and confidentiality, accessibility, and securing active and close files to subsection A from subsection E for ease of understanding. Removed subsection E as it is incorporated into subsection A. Incorporated that the foster parents are required to take necessary action to the child’s adverse reactions to medication into subdivision C 2 for ease of understanding. Removed subdivision C 3 as it is incorporated into subdivision C 2. Removed the repetitive requirement that the designated casework staff be

			available to foster parents 24 hours a day, 365 days a year as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 M. Removed the repetitive requirement that a description of restraint methods that are approved by the licensee as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-210 A 22. Removed the repetitive requirement of the licensee determining the foster parent could apply methods of physical restraint as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-380. Removed the repetitive requirement of a statement prohibiting the use of mechanical and chemical restraint as this is addressed in subdivision D 1 of this section. Removed the repetitive requirement that persons employed in each position possess the necessary qualifications as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-140.
100		This section addresses the program evaluation and improvement.	Repealed section 100. Removed the repetitive requirement of the program evaluation and improvement as the requirements are addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 J and removed the evaluation plan methods, who has access to the information and quality indicator factors as this reduces regulatory burden. It is the licensee's decision to determine the agency's evaluation plan.
130		This section addresses the licensed child-placing agencies employ job descriptions.	Removed the descriptive term "of the incumbent" as it is unnecessary and for clarification as not all jobs have incumbents. Removed that the job description includes the job title of the immediate supervisor as it is unnecessary in describing the duties and responsibilities of the job position and to reduce regulatory burden. Removed the repetitive requirement in subsection B that a copy of the job description shall be given to each person assigned to a position as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-150 B 1 b.

140		This section addresses the composition and qualifications of staff.	Removed the repetitive requirement that a staff member shall be designated to perform each function described in this chapter as this requirement is addressed in subsection B in this section. Incorporated the term “entity of a corporation or company shall not serve as executive director” into subsection C 1 of this section for ease of understanding. Removed the term “directly or through others” as the term is unnecessary and removing the term provides ease of understanding of the requirement. Removed the requirement when to employ a child-placing supervisor and the maximum number of caseworkers for each supervisor to reduce regulatory burden. The licensee can determine when to hire a child-placing supervisor and how many caseworkers per each supervisor. Incorporated coordinating services with other agencies and providers involved with the child and moved the dental services from subdivision F i to remove the last two requirements in subdivision F i for ease of understanding and to reduce regulatory burden. Removed the repetitive requirement that the caseworker shall continually evaluate the child’s plan of care as this is addressed in first sentence in subdivision F j of this section. Removed the repetitive requirement that the caseworker is responsible for educating and counseling by guiding the child and developing a supportive relationship that promotes the service plan as it is addressed in subdivision F 1 c, d, and h of this section. Removed the repetitive requirement that requires the caseworker is responsible for collaborating closely with the family assessment and planning team as it is addressed in subdivision F 1 j of this section.
-----	--	---	---

			Removed the requirement of who will supervise the trainee to reduce regulatory burden and removed the repetitive requirement to develop a written training program as training is addressed in 22VAC40-131-150. Incorporated the requirement that the approval of all placement decisions made by the student or intern into subdivision H 1 from subdivision H 2 for clarification. Removed the staff qualifications for supervision of students or interns in subdivision H 2 to reduce regulatory burden as it is the decision of the licensee or school institution to determine supervision of students or interns. Removed the unnecessary term "if it makes use of volunteers" as it is unnecessary and provides ease of understanding of the requirement. Incorporated the requirement that the licensee shall not be wholly dependent upon the use of volunteers into subdivision I 1 and removed subdivision I 4 for clarification. Removed the staff person responsible for supervision of volunteers to reduce regulatory burden as it is the decision of the licensee to determine supervision.
150		This section addresses staff development.	Removed the subsection A that staff shall participate in orientation and training as this requirement is addressed in subsection B of this section. Removed the unnecessary term "of his position in the licensee's child-placing agency" for clarification. Removed that the staff orientation includes guidance documents and broadcasts issued by the Division of Family Services, Department of Social Services to reduce regulatory burden. Incorporated the prohibition of corporal punishment from subdivision B 1 c (6) into subdivision B 1 c (7) regarding policies for discipline and behavior management for clarification.

			Removed that training shall include the current requirements of the Department of Medical Assistance Services when the licensee accepts Medicaid reimbursement to reduce regulatory burden. Removed the training requirements in subdivisions B 2 d – k for treatment foster care providers as these same requirements are addressed in subdivision B 4 for foster care provider training, which includes treatment foster care providers. Incorporated subdivision B 4 e into subdivision B 4 c for services and training provided to foster parents for ease of understanding. Removed the unnecessary term “each professional staff person shall complete this training” for clarification. Removed subsection E that the staff’s orientation and training is documented in a file as this requirement is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G.
160		This section addresses personnel records.	Removed “a completed application form providing the individual’s name, address, and phone number” as an element of the staff record, due to being overly prescriptive and to reduce regulatory burden. Revised the staff record information for educational degrees and employment history for clarification. Removed subdivision B 3 that the staff person’s record shall include written references to reduce regulatory burden. Removed that the staff record shall include the annual performance evaluations to reduce regulatory burden and documentation of background checks as background check documentation is addressed in 22VAC40-191-70. Incorporated subdivision B 7 into B 6 for the position separation date for clarification.

180		This section addresses home study requirements.	Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee shall review the application for completeness and notify the applicant of the status of the application as this is addressed in subsection C. Revised to “applicant’s home” from “home of the applicant” as a technical edit for clarification. Removed the repetitive requirement that the signed authorization and information shall be maintained in the applicant’s file as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40-G. Revised the regulation citation to reflect the revised numbering for clarification. Removed the term “of provider couple’s marriages and divorces” as it is unnecessary due to the requirement of providing the marital history and status, including verifications. This change provides clarification. Revised the citation in this section to reflect the revised numbering for clarification Removed the unnecessary terms to provide clarification that corporal punishment is prohibited. Removed the term “for reasons” regarding motivation to adopt, to provide clarification. Removed the repetitive requirement that the results of the background checks shall be maintained in the applicant’s file as this is addressed in 22VAC40-191-70.
190		This section addresses the provider’s home environment.	Removed the terms “sufficient” and “activities and safety” regarding lighting to provide clarification. Added that the emergency preparedness plan needs to address fire and natural disasters to be consistent with 22VAC40-211-70 M. Removed the term “prescription and nonprescription” regarding medication

			as it is unnecessary and for clarification. Removed the term “for use in injuries and accidents” as it is unnecessary to describe the purpose of first aid supplies and to reduce regulatory burden.
200		This section addresses the initial approval of the provider’s home.	Removed the term “prior to the placement of the child in a home” as this section addressed the initial approval of the home and removing this term provides clarification of the requirement for initial home approval. Incorporated subdivision A 5 into subdivision A 2 of other necessary training for the types of children they will receive for clarification. Removed the repetitive requirements in subdivisions A 3 and A 6 as considering the information for placement of children is addressed in 22VAC40-131-250. Removed the repetitive requirement in subdivision A 4 of determining the home and provider meets requirements for approval as it is addressed in subsection C. Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee shall allow the provider to be approved as foster parent, adoptive parent or short-term foster parent as this is addressed in the previous sentence in subsection B. Removed subsection D as it is the licensee’s responsibility how to decide the approval or disapproval of the applicant and to reduce regulatory burden. Removed the timeframe that the licensee notifies the applicant of approval or disapproval to reduce regulatory burden. Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee shall maintain the copy of the certificate in the provider’s file as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G.

210		This section addresses the provider's training and development.	Removed the repetitive requirement that the receipt of training shall be in the home provider's file as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G.
220		This section addresses short-term foster care provider's training and development.	Added the exception of the core competency training for short-term foster care providers to remove the repetitive core competency requirements addressed in 22VAC40-131-210. Removed the repetitive requirement that the receipt of training shall be in the home provider's file as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G. Removed the repetitive requirement that the providers shall keep confidential all information regarding the child coming into care as this is addressed in subsection E.
230		This section addresses the monitoring and re-evaluation of provider homes.	Revised the regulation citation to reflect the revised numbering. Removed the requirements in subdivisions F 1, 2 a – c, e, and 3 for re-evaluation of the applicant to be consistent with 22VAC40-211-100. Added the term "provider's ability" to clarify who is responsible to maintain a consistent and stable environment for each child and removed "in this evaluation" as a technical edit for clarification. Added the term "can be placed in" and removed "can successfully handle" for clarification of the requirement regarding recommendations for use of the home. Removed subsection G regarding the approval decision be made with the child-placing supervisor to be consistent with the requirements in 22VAC40-211-50 C 9. Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee shall document the age and gender of children who can be placed in the home as it is addressed in subdivision F 4. Removed the timeframe for written notification of revocation of approval to

			the provider to be consistent with the requirements in 22VAC40-211-100. Removed the repetitive requirement that the verification of the licensee's decision to revoke the provider's approval shall be documented in the provider's file as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G. Removed the repetitive documentation requirements in subsection K as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G.
240		This section addresses the capacity of the provider's home.	Removed the requirement for the written contents of the justification for increasing the number of children to reduce regulatory burden and moved "prior to the placement" to the first sentence for clarification.
250		This section addresses the intake, assessment, and placement in provider homes.	Removed the repetitive requirement that written authority for placement shall be maintained in the child's file as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G. Removed the repetitive requirement of placement information in the child's file as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G. Removed the repetitive requirement of considering the foster parents' willingness to access resources as it is addressed in subdivision I 4 in this section. Revised the assistance the licensee provides to the foster family and documentation of the selection of the child for clarification. Removed the repetitive requirement regarding documentation of why the preplacement interview and visit was not completed as this is addressed in subsection N of this section. Revised that the placement agreement is signed by all applicable parties for clarification. Removed the repetitive requirement in subdivisions R 2, 3, and 5 as the requirement is addressed in subdivision R 4 of this section and added the term

			“and foster care program” for clarification. Removed subdivision R 6 b as goals are discussed in R 6 a, and goals require objectives. This reduces regulatory burden. Removed the repetitive requirement to document in the child’s file the reactions of the parent and other persons to each topic discussed with them to reduce regulatory burden and documentation requirements are addressed 22VAC40-131-40 G. Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee shall develop a support system for foster parents 24-hour, seven day a week basis as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 M.
260		This section addresses the child’s social history.	Removed the repetitive documentation requirement as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G. Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee shall review the child’s social history with the selected adoptive parents as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-520 F.
270		This section addresses the Interstate of Placement of Children.	Removed the repetitive documentation requirements throughout this section as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40-G. Removed the term “any particular” regarding a child for placement for clarification.
280		This section addresses foster home agreements.	Removed subdivisions C 5 and C 13 d to incorporate into subdivision C 4 for clarification that the foster care agreement shall include the consent and arrangements for medical care for the child from licensed professionals. Revised subdivision C 13 to include technical edits for clarification of the requirements.
290		This section addresses the medical, dental, and psychiatric examinations.	Removed the repetitive maintaining documentation requirement as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G. Removed the unnecessary terms “any routine and recommended” for clarification.

			Removed the repetitive requirement in subsection G since the licensee shall arrange for any medical, dental, mental health, psychological, and psychiatric care that is addressed in subsection F. Incorporated the term “intended effects, and adverse reactions the child or youth has experienced” from subsection J into subsection I and removed subsection J for clarification. Removed the repetitive requirement of documentation as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G. Removed that requirement that if an individual comes in contact with a known case of tuberculosis or develops chronic respiratory symptoms a tuberculosis screening is needed to be consistent with 22VAC40-211-30 C.
300		This section addresses school enrollment.	Removed the repetitive documentation requirements as it addressed in 22VAC40-31-40 G.
320		This section addresses reports and policies to protect children.	Removed the repetitive documentation requirement as it addressed in 22VAC40-31-40 G. Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee’s policies and procedures were followed as this requirement is addressed in subdivision B 4 a. Removed the repetitive maintaining the report requirement as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G. Moved subsection C to subdivision D 3 for clarification. Removed the repetitive documentation requirement as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G. Added the term “date” to subdivision F 6 to be consistent with the requirement of subdivision F 1 for clarification. Removed the unnecessary term “and made the notification to” for clarification, regarding serious incident documentation requirements.
330		This section addresses visitation and continuing	Revised “be responsible for ensuring” to “ensure” as a technical edit for clarification.

		required contact with children.	Removed the repetitive documentation requirement as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G. Removed the signature requirement to reduce regulatory burden and revised for technical edits for clarification. Removed the repetitive documentation requirement as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G.
340		This section addresses service plans.	Removed the term “the duration of” as this is a technical edit for clarification. Removed the repetitive requirement of the nature of the placement be provided to the child as this is addressed in subdivision E 4 of this section. Incorporated the goals and objectives address specific problems, behaviors, skills, and criteria for achievement into subdivision E 3 to remove repetitive requirement. Removed the repetitive for goals and objectives for youth 14 years of age or older as this is addressed in subdivision E 5 e. Removed the repetitive requirement of description of the participation from the parent or prior custodians as this requirement is addressed in subdivisions E 5 b and c and subsection F. Revised that the licensee shall provide documentation of the parties involved in the development of the child’s service plan and removed the unnecessary descriptive term “unless clearly inappropriate” for clarification. Removed the repetitive documentation in the file requirement as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G. Revised to clarify that the licensee shall obtain the copy of the service plan sent to court for clarification and removed the repetitive documentation in the file requirement as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G.
350		This section addresses quarterly progress summaries.	Removed the repetitive requirement documenting the progress of the child has made as this is addressed in the

			first part of the requirement in subdivision B 1 that the progress of the child shall be documented. Removed the repetitive requirement that the description of new goals and objectives to be added as it is addressed in subdivision B 7 and the timeframe is addressed in subsection A of this section. Removed the repetitive requirement that the description of criteria for achievement and target dates as it is addressed in the other elements in subsection B of this section. Removed the repetitive requirement for recommendations for any modifications to the current service plan as it is addressed in subdivision B 4 of this section. Removed the repetitive requirement for progress summaries shall be in the child's file as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-370 N. Removed the repetitive requirement for participation documentation as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-340 F.
360		This section addresses discharging children from care.	Removed the repetitive requirement for discharge planning as it is addressed in subsections B and E. Revised to clarify that the licensee needs to document the child's discharge was planned for clarification and incorporated the term "aftercare services for the child" from subsection C for clarification. Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee shall consult with the legal custodians as this is addressed in subsection B. Removed the repetitive requirement for documenting in the child's file as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G.
370		This section addresses case record requirements.	Removed the descriptive term "organized" and "in a uniform organized manner" to reduce regulatory burden. Removed subsection C regarding electronic signatures requirement as

			the use of electronic signatures are addressed in the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, § 59.1-479 et seq. Removed the term “be legibly written in ink and in a uniform organized manner” to reduce regulatory burden. Removed the repetitive requirement for maintaining as part of the case file as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G. Removed the repetitive requirement in subdivisions H 1 and 2 as the accessibility of records is addressed in the revision of 22VAC40-131-90 A. Removed the repetitive requirement of storing files in a locked, metal fire cabinet as subdivision H 3 requires the license to maintain records in an area protected from fire, flood, and uncontrolled climate. Removed the repetitive requirement in subsection I that the file storage system has the protections as required in subdivisions H 3 and 4 as it is addressed in subsection H of this section. Removed the repetitive requirement of retaining the child’s subsidy record and child that was reunited with birth family as this is addressed in subdivision J 4 in the Library of Virginia’s Record Retention and Disposition Schedule, General Schedule Number 15. Removed the repetitive requirement of retaining records when a licensee ceases operations as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-90 A 1. Revised subsection M for technical edits for ease of understanding. Removed the repetitive requirement of documentation of approval process as it is addressed in subdivision M 3 of this section. Removed the repetitive requirement of reference letters as it is addressed in subdivision M 2 for supporting documentation.
--	--	--	---

			Removed the repetitive requirement of driving record checks and background check results in subdivisions M 5 and 7 as it is addressed in subdivision M 6 of this section and added the term “and summary of results” for clarification. Removed the repetitive requirement of completed orientation and training, medical information and results of monitoring home visits to be stored in the provider file as it is addressed in subdivision M 2 of this section for supporting documentation. Incorporated the prohibition of corporal punishments into subdivision M 15 and removed subdivision M 17 for ease of understanding. Revised subsection N to clarify that the documentation is required for each child served. Incorporated siblings into subdivision N 2 and removed N 3 for clarification. Added that the licensee shall include the child’s service plans and quarterly progress summaries to services provided for clarification. Revised the adoption cases shall have documentation on the child for clarification. Removed ‘a record in the narrative dictation of’ and revised to ‘information about’ the child and family’s preparation for placement for clarification and to reduce regulatory burden. Incorporated the term “names” into subdivision O 1 c for clarification that the name of the birth family is required on the face sheet. Removed the unnecessary terms in subdivision O 2 and incorporated the requirement that the summary of services is on the face sheet to remove the repetitive requirement in subdivision O 3 for clarification.
--	--	--	--

			Removed the repetitive requirements of documentation in the provider's file as it is addressed in subsection M, 22VAC40-131-200 A 2, and 22VAC40-131-480. Removed subsection R for the timeline of when the licensee shall place the documentation in the provider and child files to reduce regulatory burden.
380		This section addresses behavior support and crisis intervention.	Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee shall document that the foster parents were informed of the physical restraint policy as training foster parents of policies on physical restraint methods approved by the licensee is addressed in 22VAC40-131-210 A 22.
400		This section addresses children placed in permanent foster care.	Removed the repetitive requirement in subsection D regarding following this chapter as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 A.
420		This section addresses children placed in short-term foster care.	Removed the repetitive requirement in subdivision B 2 regarding receiving required training as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-220.
440		This section addresses youth placed in independent living arrangements.	Removed the repetitive requirement for including interstate compacts in subsection A as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-270. Removed the repetitive requirement for approving an independent living arrangement setting as this is addressed in subdivision B 1 of this section. Incorporated the criteria for admission from subdivision B 3 into subdivision B 4 for clarification. Removed the repetitive requirement of criteria to terminate approval in an independent living arrangement placement as it is addressed in subdivisions B 5 and 6. Revised subdivisions C 3 a and b with technical edits and removed unnecessary terms of "conforming to acceptable norms" for clarification. Incorporated subdivision C 3 c into subdivision C 3 d for clarification and removed repetitive requirement of participation in service planning goals.

			Removed the repetitive requirement of emergency preparedness as it is addressed in subdivisions B 11 a and b of this section. Incorporated subdivision D 7 into subdivision D 6 regarding reasons for discharge for clarification. Removed the repetitive requirement for maintaining the signed agreement in the child's file as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G. Incorporated subsection K into subsection L for service planning within 90 days of admission and review 90 days thereafter for clarification and removed repetitiveness. Removed the repetitive requirement for addressing the youth's continuing needs as it is addressed in subdivision L 4. Removed the repetitive requirement for documentation of the decision of the approval of the independent living arrangement setting as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G.
460		This section addresses children placed in treatment foster care.	Removed the repetitive requirement for licensees providing treatment foster care services in Virginia shall meet the requirements of this chapter as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-20. Removed the repetitive requirement for a plan when a child's placement in a family disrupts as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-90 D 4.
490		This section addresses adoption counseling and services for birth parents.	Removed the repetitive requirement for the exception of not providing counseling to the birth parents for intercountry adoption cases as it is addressed in subsection A of this section. Incorporated subsection D regarding the licensee shall document counseling services provided to the birth parents instead of separating the requirement for birth mother and birth father for clarification.

495		This section addresses post-adoption contact and communications agreement.	Revised the title of this section to make communication singular to be consistent with how this is agreement is addressed in § 63.2-1220.2 and consistent with this section. Removed the unnecessary requirement of reviewing the post-adoption contact and communication agreement as the licensee is required to provide a written recommendation which requires the licensee to review the agreement prior to a written recommendation. This reduces regulatory burden.
510		This section addresses the provisions for adopting children with special needs.	Revised that the children with special needs in the licensee's custody shall be registered in the Adoption Resource Exchange in Virginia for clarification. Removed the unnecessary requirement that the prospective adoptive families are registered in the Adoption Resource Exchange in Virginia as registration is required for children and not prospective adoptive parents. This change is for clarification.
520		This section addresses selection of an adoptive home.	Removed the repetitive requirement that documentation for reasons siblings are not placed together as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G. Removed subsection C the repetitive requirement of selecting an adoptive home for the child's best interest in as it is addressed in subsection E. Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee shall document recommendations for selecting the specific home in the child's file as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G. Revised subsection E with a technical edit and removed the unnecessary term "particular" for clarification. Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee shall document the reasons for selecting the specific home in the child's file as this is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G. Revised that the written signed acknowledgement shall be retained for clarification.

			Removed the unnecessary requirement that the licensee shall permit the adoptive parents to decide whether they will accept the child as an adoption placement agreement is entered when the adoptive parents agree to accept a child as required in 22VAC40-131-530. This reduces regulatory burden.
550		This section addresses adoptive placement of children over one year of age.	Incorporated subdivision B 5 into B 6 for clarification that the child's life book includes photographs of the child from birth to the child's current age. Removed the repetitive requirement in subsection C requiring licensee shall document reasons the child was not prepared for placement as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G.
580		This section addresses the post-placement responsibility for adoptive homes.	Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee who holds custody shall maintain legal responsibility of the child until the final order of adoption as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-530.
590		This section addresses intercountry placement adoptions.	Removed the unnecessary term of "assist the family in determining when these requirements are applicable" for clarification and incorporated subsection C into subsection B of this section of including the requirements of the United States Citizenship and Immigrations Services for clarification. Removed the repetitive requirement in subsections E and F that the licensee shall document the information in the child's file as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G. Incorporated subdivision G 6 into subdivision G 5 of this section that the applicant's expectation and the ability to provide care for children includes the child's living circumstance prior to placement for clarification. Removed the repetitive requirement in subsections J and K of this section of the licensee documenting information in the adoptive parents' file as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-40 G. Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee shall make available to the department all documents and material related to the imposed adverse

			action as it is addressed in § 63.2-1708.
610		This section addresses subsequent adoptive placements.	Removed the repetitive requirement that the licensee shall complete the orientation and training as it is addressed in 22VAC40-131-210. Removed the repetitive requirement that the initial home study comply with requirements of this chapter as it is addressed in subsection A of this section.
Forms		This section addresses the forms for licensed child-placing agencies.	Removed the forms as the Library of Virginia Record Retention and Disposition Schedule General Schedule Number 15 is not a form and the use of the Virginia Department of Health forms is not required for reporting tuberculosis.