



## ***Probation Service Definition***

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS & PROBATION

<b>SERVICE NAME</b>	<b>Agency Based Foster Care</b> <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juvenile</span>
<b>Category</b>	Out-of-Home Placement/Non-treatment
<b>Setting</b>	Residential
<b>Facility License</b>	Child Placing Agency License as approved by the State of Nebraska Health and Humans Services (DHHS) Division of Public Health
<b>Service Description</b>	Agency Based Foster Care is a temporary placement that is provided in a licensed foster home when family or kinship options are not available. The agency is expected to ensure background checks are completed per child placing agency license. The foster home is supported by a licensed agency or through the Department of Health and Human Services. The foster home provides 24-hour care and supervision for youth by a trained foster family. The agency based foster home and agency is responsive to the youth’s needs throughout the day, is prepared to intervene in crisis situations and collaborates with the youth’s parent/caregiver to provide effective parenting in order to support sustainable success. Youth in agency based foster care require consistent behavior management, supervision and crisis support to ensure their access to education, treatment services and family/prosocial supports are not disrupted while more long-term plans are developed. Foster families will provide a safe, learning and nurturing environment to help youth facilitate change in their behavior, attitudes, and personal interactions.
<b>Service Expectations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The agency will develop a written individualized service plan with the youth, probation/problem solving court officer, family, and other stakeholders identified, that assist the youth in stabilization and preparing for transition home or to a necessary placement. The initial plan will be developed within 72 hours of placement and must address goals to include: behavioral, treatment/evaluation services, medication compliance, education, transition planning, these will all be related to criminogenic risk levels.</li> <li>• Individualization of the plan will be determined based on service referral information provided by the probation/problem solving court officer, relevant collateral documentation/assessments and family goals.</li> <li>• The plan shall include approval by the probation/problem solving court officer and/or court to allow youth community access to participate in education, treatment and planned supervised outings, home visits, etc.</li> <li>• Provide a structured living environment to include evidence based youth developmental principles (physical, psychological, emotional), community engagement/ support, and family engagement.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in family team meetings to provide necessary information on the youth’s behavior and progress in agency based foster care as well as assist the family in preparing for the youth’s return home or necessary placement.</li> <li>• Family engagement shall include regular phone contact and visitation with family members as authorized by probation/problem solving court officer and/or the court. Family engagement shall be flexible to meet the non-traditional hours needed by families. Phone contact and visits shall not be tied to behavior management and shall not be removed as a consequence.</li> <li>• Intentional home visits should be planned with the youth, youth’s family, foster family, supporting agency, and probation/problem solving court officer and shall be utilized to enhance family functioning and in the achievement of service goals. Home visits shall be in the family home and the visits shall not be removed as a consequence of behavior.</li> <li>• The agency will ensure 24-hour crisis intervention is available to aid in the stabilization of crisis situations.</li> <li>• Agency based foster home and the supporting agency will ensure that educational needs are being met. Youth shall attend their home school whenever possible.</li> <li>• When the foster parent is not available for supervision, the agency will assume responsibility for the youth unless: Pre-planned structure needs are being met through formal and/or informal services</li> <li>• When the youth are in need of supervision as a result of a change in daily structure (e.g. suspension from school, sickness, etc.) it is the primary responsibility of the foster parent and foster care agency to seek and secure appropriate supervision alternatives.</li> <li>• The agency will ensure respite care is provided to the foster parents as needed and outlined in the Professional Foster Care plan.</li> <li>• Provide transport as necessary to and from dental and medical appointments, school, court, therapy, home visits and routine day to day activities. Transportation costs within a 25 mile radius will be the responsibility of the provider. Transportation beyond that radius will be the responsibility of the parent. Transportation costs for the first 100 miles in a calendar month will be the responsibility of the foster family. Transportation beyond that radius will be the responsibility of the parent.</li> <li>• Discharges will be thoughtful and planned. If the agency based foster family ask for the youth to be removed from the home, the family shall agree to provide care for the youth for at least 14 calendar days.</li> <li>• If the agency based foster family requests a youth to be removed from the home, a family engagement meeting shall be held within 3 business days to develop a transition plan for the youth. The plan will include educational, clinical, living, environment and court approval etc.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The agency will collaborate and proactively plan with probation/problem solving court officer for the discharge of youth from service, this will plan will begin upon placement to the foster home. During this process a trauma informed approach will be utilized to prepare the youth for the transition to ensure the most appropriate post-discharge placement is available for the youth prior to discharge. Criteria for discharge will be individualized, determined by the team, and approved by the court.</li> <li>• When the youth’s discharge is not planned, the provider shall give probation/problem solving court officer a fourteen (14) calendar day notice in writing. During the fourteen (14) day period of time, the agency shall use a trauma informed approach to prepare the client for the impending discharge and will work collaboratively with probation to determine the most appropriate transition or post discharge placement for the youth. The court must approve all discharges and placement changes. A fourteen (14) calendar day written notice is not required when the provider and probation mutually agree that it is in the best interests of the client to move sooner.</li> </ul>
<b>Service Frequency</b>	24 hours/7 days a week
<b>Length of Stay</b>	Up to 6 months
<b>Staffing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licensed by the State of Nebraska</li> <li>• Foster home and supporting agency will comply with all staffing requirements of the Residential Child Placing Agency license. Related to NE statue 71-1901 to 71-1907.</li> <li>• All foster families will have training on evidence-based youth developmental principles (emotional, physiological), trauma informed care, best practice in juvenile justice, and criminogenic risk and needs</li> </ul>
<b>Staff to Client Ratio</b>	Staffing ratios will be provided based on DHHS, Division of Public Health licensing regulations for foster homes. Foster home and supporting agency will comply with all staffing requirements of the Residential Child Placing Agency license. Related to NE statue 71-1901 to 71-1907.
<b>Hours of Operation</b>	24 hours/7 days a week
<b>Service Desired Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth will stabilize and show improved functioning based on successful completion of the individualized plan, including initial goals and reduction of identified criminogenic risk.</li> <li>• Prevention of placement in a more restrictive environment, and a demonstration of improved family functioning between youth and family.</li> <li>• The primary outcome is to enable the youth to move back home as soon as referral goals are met.</li> </ul>
<b>Unit and Rate</b>	Per day; see rate sheet

[Click here to view  
Service Interpretive Guideline]