



Probation Service Definition

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF PROBATION

SERVICE NAME	Professional Foster Care <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juvenile
Category	Out-of-Home Placement/Non-treatment
Setting	Residential
Facility License	Child Placing Agency License as approved by the State of Nebraska Health and Humans Services (DHHS) Division of Public Health
Service Description	Professional Foster Care is a temporary placement that is provided in a licensed foster home when agency based, family or kinship options are not available. The professional foster home is supported by a licensed agency to ensure the youth is provided 24-hour care and supervision. The professional 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 professional foster care require highly skilled caregivers to maintain consistent behavior management, supervision and support. Foster families will provide a safe and nurturing environment to help youth and their families facilitate change in their behavior, attitudes, and personal interactions with the goal to successfully transition the youth back into the family home.
Service Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a written individualized service plan with the youth’s family, youth, foster family, supporting agency, probation/problem solving court officer and other stakeholders identified, that will focus on improvement of youth and/or family functioning, enabling the youth to move back home as soon as service goals are met. The plan will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Parental skills b) Intensive focus on coping skills c) Family Interactions d) Structured living environment e) Consistent access to needed treatment f) Increase Prosocial Support g) Build relationships with other supporting adults h) Youth abilities to change behaviors i) Improvement in the areas of criminogenic risk and need

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional foster parents and the supporting agency will engage in skill building activities to build youth behavioral, emotional and social competency. • Professional foster parents and the supporting agency will collaborate and build relationships with the youth's parents/caregivers to provide effective parenting in order to support sustainable success. • Monthly family team meetings will include participation by the foster care specialist and foster family . • The supporting agency and foster home will partner with the youth's identified family to ensure family voice and choice and that transition planning occurs timely and intentionally. • Structured living environment to include evidence based youth developmental principles (physical, psychological, emotional), community engagement and support, and family engagement. • The foster family and Professional Foster Care agency will actively engage with the youth, their family, the school, probation and other formal and informal supports to enhance youth and family functioning and reduce criminogenic risk. • Family engagement shall include regular phone contact, visitation with family members, and family engagement shall be flexible to meet the non-traditional hours needed by families. Phone contact and visits shall not be tied to behaviors and shall not be removed as consequences. • Intentional home visits should be planned with the youth's family, youth, foster family, supporting agency, and probation 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. • Foster home and the supporting agency will ensure that educational needs are being met. Youth shall attend their home school whenever possible. • Professional foster parents shall arrange their schedules to ensure they are in the home at all times the youth is present. One foster parent shall be immediately available at all times to support the youth placed in the home and the foster parent and agency have the primary responsibility to seek and secure appropriate supervision alternatives as a result of a change in daily structure (e.g. suspension, illness). The supporting agency will ensure 24-hour crisis intervention is available to aid in the stabilization of crisis situations established and outlined in the plan. • When the foster parent is not available for supervision, the Professional Foster Care agency will assume responsibility for the youth unless: Pre-planned structure needs are being met through formal and/or informal services
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • The agency will ensure respite care is provided to the foster parents as needed and outlined in the Professional Foster Care plan. • Provide transport as necessary to and from dental and medical appointment, school, court, therapy, home visits, and routine day to day activities. 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. • The agency will ensure professional foster parents are supported by a skilled Foster Care Specialist with at least 2 years' experience working with youth and families who display complex or high risk behaviors and have completed comparable training to professional foster parents. • The Foster Care Specialist will provide regular and frequent support to the foster parent, youth and family in the foster home or in the community as outlined in the Professional Foster Care Plan to support the foster parent(s) and family in providing for the complex needs of the youth. The support can be a combination of in person and phone, scheduled and crisis contacts as needed but should occur in person at least one time per week. A minimum of 2 contacts/month shall include both the youth and foster parent. Transportation, check-ins or other similar contacts will occur in addition to but should not replace the targeted contacts. • The foster care agency will provide enhanced support to professional foster parents to manage particularly challenging or complex behaviors of individual youth to prevent placement disruption or ensure community safety. • The foster family and supporting agency will aid the probation officer in transition planning to begin upon admission to the foster home. Criteria for discharge will be individualized, determined by the team, and approved by the court. • Discharges will be thoughtful and planned. If the professional foster family asks 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. • If the professional 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. • 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
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	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Service Frequency	24 hours/7 days a week
Length of Stay	Up to 6 months
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed by the State of Nebraska • Foster home and supporting agency will comply with all staffing requirements of the Residential Child Placing Agency license. • All foster families and foster care specialists will have training on evidence-based youth developmental principles (emotional, physiological), best practice in juvenile justice, and criminogenic risk and needs. • Professional foster homes will complete a probation approved curriculum of advanced training to include but not limited to Trauma informed care, EBP, crisis response, family engagement, youth development, safety planning, family engagement, transition planning, motivational interviewing, specialized populations and juvenile justice/criminogenic risk.
Staff to Client Ratio	Staffing ratios will be provided based on DHHS licensing regulations for foster homes. No more than 2 youth per home receiving this level of service. This does not include the foster family's natural children.
Hours of Operation	24-hour/day
Service Desired Outcomes	Youth will stabilize and show improved functioning based on successful completion of individualized plan, including initial goals and reduction of identified criminogenic domains. Prevention of placement in a more restrictive environment, and a demonstration of improved family functioning. The primary outcome is to enable the youth to move back home as soon as service goals are met.
Unit and Rate	Per day; Rates determined by Competitive Procurement Process.

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Service Interpretive Guideline\]](#)