

# Operational Policy

Section: Foster Care

Item: Foster Home - Maximum  
Number of Foster Children



<b>Purpose</b>	This policy is to clarify the maximum number of foster children a foster parent can care for in their home.
<b>Background</b>	<p>The Ministry of Children's services has set the number of licenced spaces in foster homes based on three criteria: the skill level of the foster parents, the foster home and foster care workers recommendation. The maximum number of foster children in a licenced facility are:</p> <p>Level one – up to 2 spaces Level two – up to 4 spaces</p> <p>Research and best practice demonstrate that the higher the number of children or youth in a home places increased strain and stress on the caregivers and additional supports are needed to maintain the home. Therefore the number of children in a home must be manageable and based on the skills and training of the foster parents.</p>
<b>Direction</b>	<p>Level one, or equivalent, foster parents can have 2 licenced spaces in their foster home.</p> <p>Level two, or equivalent, foster parents can have 4 licenced spaces in their foster home.</p>
<b>Exemptions</b>	<p>Licenced capacity can be increased beyond this policy based on the following exemptions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Placement of sibling groups,</li><li>2. Return of children or youth to the foster home who have a significant relationship with the foster parents,</li><li>3. Parenting Youth,</li><li>4. Considering Ethnic or Cultural practices,</li></ol> <p>Exemption to exceed this capacity must be approved by the MST manager.</p>
<b>Recording</b>	Exemptions to exceed capacity must be recommended to the MST Manager by the Foster Care Worker. Providing a written request on an Exception Consideration form including the reasons for the exemption and the number of spaces to be issued on the licence. The Licence can only be varied once approved by the Manager.
<b>Grandfathering</b>	Foster homes with placements exceeding the maximum number of foster children will be licenced for that number but the number of children on the licence will be reduces once the child leaves the home. h

Contact: Foster Care Manager	Rev. No.: 1	Rev. Date:
APPROVED	Page 1 of 1	Original Date: March, 2005