

## **Family Foster Care and Adoptions**

### **License Applicant Privacy Rights**

The Minnesota Government Data Practices Act protects the rights of the people government agencies keep information about. It protects the privacy of sensitive documents. It also provides for the release of information which the public has the right to know. As an applicant for Family Foster Care or Adoption, this law applies in the information you give this agency.

#### **EXAMPLES:**

##### **Public Data**

Some of the information we collect about you is public such as your name, address, number of persons you are licensed to provide for, your telephone number etc. This data is public to allow individuals who are looking for foster care or persons interested in adoption to contact you and make choices about whether they want to place their family member in your home.

##### **Private or Nonpublic Data**

Some of the information we maintain about you is private or nonpublic. This means you will be able to see it but it will not be available to the public. This information includes any financial information you give us such as names and locations of bank accounts, Insurance information, and your social security number. It also includes personal data on other members of your family who may not be involved in your licensed operation. It includes the result of any medical or psychiatric examination your or members of your family are required to take in order to be licensed. It includes reports from the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension or other law enforcement agency regarding any criminal history. Sometime your name and address can be withheld if you provide care for someone whose location needs to be protected.

##### **Confidential or Protected Nonpublic Data**

Some information may be withheld from you. This information may involve investigations if you or a family member is investigated for a violation of a Rule or Statute. It includes the names of reporters of child abuse and vulnerable adult abuse. Some of this information will be available to you when the investigation becomes inactive or when the information is presented to a court or hearing judge.

#### **PURPOSE: The information we ask you to provide will be used to:**

1. Identify you from other applicants;
2. Determine if you meet licensed standards;
3. Investigate violations of Rule or Statute;
4. Develop statistics and evaluate programs.
5. Housing Authority / Landlord Approval

#### **REQUIREMENTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF PROVIDING INFORMATION:**

Authority for licensing Family Foster Care providers and Adoption candidates is found in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 245A. Minnesota Rule 1 and 203 tells how to obtain a Family Foster Care license. Leech Lake Standards apply for any applicant residing within the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's exercised jurisdiction. If you do not provide the information required, we may be unable to give you a license. If you already have a license, failure to provide the information may result in a negative licensing action.

**SHARING:**

The information we have about you may be shared with employees of this agency who need the information to do their jobs. Information may be shared with other agencies of the welfare system if you move and apply to be licensed by another agency or if required to provide services to a particular client. The agencies or the welfare system are:

- The Minnesota Department of Human Services
- County Welfare agencies
- Human Services boards
- State Hospitals and Nursing Homes
- Community Mental Health Centers
- Ombudsman for mental health or mental retardation
- Other agencies under contract to the extent of the contract

The law provides that the following agencies or individuals may see and have copies of the data:

- Parents, guardians or other persons acting as parents or guardians if the law allows it;
- Law enforcement officers, county attorneys or other agents of the system who are investigating licensed program;
- Minnesota Department of Health to report communicable diseases.

**OTHER RIGHTS**

- You have the right to know if we have information about you;
- You have the right to see all public, private and nonpublic information about you that we keep. This includes the right to authorize other persons to see or have copies of it if you sign consent for the release of information;
- You have the right to have information explained to you;
- You have the right to have copies of the data you can see. You may have to pay for the cost of the copies;
- You have the right to challenge the accuracy and completeness of any private information we have about you. If you want to challenge any information, write to the Director of this licensing agency;
- You have the right to insert your own explanation of anything you object to in your records.

This notice applies to all current and future contracts you have with this agency whether those contracts are in person, or over the telephone or by mail.

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I have read my rights and understand them

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE