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DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
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Administrator

March 15, 2024

Small Business Impact Statement

Proposed Regulations

NAC Chapter 424-FOSTER HOMES FOR CHILDREN

(Prepared Pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 233B.0608)

Pertaining to

Proposed Amendments per Executive Order 2023-003; Proposed Amendments to the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 424 – Foster Homes for Children; Nevada’s Licensing Regulations and Standards for Foster Homes

The proposed revisions to NAC Chapter 424 – Foster Homes for Children are a result of Executive Order 2023-003 which requires a review of existing regulations by all Executive Branch Agencies. These changes reflect Nevada’s intent to update any unfocused, obsolete and unnecessary regulations. These proposed amendments will make the Nevada foster home licensing process more efficient by eliminating unnecessary regulations.

1. A description of the manner in which comment was solicited from affected small businesses, a summary of their responses and an explanation of the manner in which other interested persons may obtain a copy of the summary.

On December 21, 2023, the Division of Child and Family Services sent a Small Business Impact questionnaire by electronic mail to 19 foster care agency owners who may be impacted by the proposed changes to NAC Chapter 424. They were asked to complete the questionnaire no later than January 4, 2024. A reminder was also sent out to the small business owners on January 2, 2024, to complete the questionnaire.

1. A total of five (5) questionnaires were completed by the small business owners.
2. None of the small business owners believed the regulations would have an adverse effect on their small business.
3. Four (4) of the small business owners believed the proposed regulations would benefit their small business.
4. One small business owner mentioned that an immediate effect on their small business would be they could license foster homes more quickly, while another small business owner indicated the proposed changes would open new recruitment opportunities.
5. One small business owner expressed that a long-term effect on their small business would be positive in that they can build a larger network of foster parents. Another small business owner indicated another positive long-term effect of these proposed regulations would increase the amount of support they can offer to families interested in fostering.

On March 5, 2024, the Division of Child and Family Services sent an electronic mail to all licensed foster homes in the state for whom we had addresses for and who may be impacted by the proposed amendments to NAC Chapter 424. Included in that correspondence were the proposed changes to NAC Chapter 424 as well as a link to complete a Small Business Impact questionnaire. Recipients were notified the Division would be collecting responses through March 13, 2024, regarding the effect these proposed changes may have on their small business. A reminder email was sent to all recipients on March 8, 2024, to complete the questionnaire.

1. A total of ten questionnaires were completed by individuals from licensed foster homes.
2. None of the respondents believed the regulations would have an adverse effect on their small business.
3. None of the respondents believed the proposed regulations would benefit their small business.
4. None of the respondents believed the proposed regulations would have any immediate or long-term effects on their small business.
5. One small business owner expressed that "everything looks fine". Another small business owner expressed they were "hoping that being a small business owner will motivate the children I take care of to do the same".

This Small Business Impact Statement summary is in its entirety.

2. The manner in which the analysis was conducted.

All revisions made to NAC Chapter 424 will ensure the continued safety of Nevada's children in licensed foster homes while increasing the efficiency and timeliness of the foster home licensing process. The Family Programs Office analyzed the results of the completed Small Business Impact Questionnaires in the development of this statement.

3. The estimated economic effect of the proposed regulation on the small business which it is to regulate including without limitation both adverse and beneficial effects and both direct and indirect effects.

Based on the responses, the proposed regulations do not appear to have an economic effect on small businesses in the state.

4. A description of the methods that the DCFS considered to reduce the impact of the proposed regulation on small businesses and a statement regarding whether the agency actually used those methods.

Based on the responses, DCFS did not consider any other methods to reduce the impact because there was no assertion these regulations impacted small business.

5. The estimated cost to the agency for enforcement of proposed regulations.

DCFS considers there is a potential increase in costs to the agency for licensed foster homes if the number of licensed homes increases as a result of the increased efficiency and timeliness to licensure; however, this is a current function of the organization. With licensed placements, the agency will be able to claim reimbursable Title IV-E costs.

6. Total amount the agency which provides child welfare services expects to collect from any fees and the manner in which the money will be used.

The proposed regulations do not implement any additional fees.

7. An explanation of why any duplicative or more stringent provisions than federal, state or local standards regulating the same activity are necessary.

Nevada adopted The Final National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards in 2019, in response to *ACYF-CB-IM-19-01 National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards*. The proposed amendments to existing regulations allow for increased efficiency and timeliness to licensure from when the regulations were originally adopted, while still falling within the federal standards. No duplication or more stringent provisions were created within the proposed amendments to regulations.

8. The reasons for the conclusions of the agency regarding the impact of the proposed regulation on small business.

It is the conclusion of DCFS that there is no significant impact from the proposed regulation on small business.

By my signature below, I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this statement was prepared properly and is accurate.



3/15/2024

Marla McDade Williams, *DCFS Administrator*

Date