

**Foster Home Approval and Re-Evaluation Term  
Policy Changes  
FAQs**

On June 12, 2023, the Child Welfare Foster Home Approval Term and Re-evaluation frequency was changed from 12 months to 24 months. Effective immediately, foster homes will be approved for a period of 24 months and a comprehensive written evaluation of the overall quality and functioning of each approved caregiver will be completed every two years. The Division has compiled a list of frequently asked questions regarding the new approval term and re-evaluation timeframe. Please use the below questions and answers to guide your implementation.

1. How does the new requirement impact foster homes that were previously overdue/out of compliance?

*Foster homes listed as overdue/out of compliance prior to June 12, 2023, must be completed. Upon completion of the overdue re-evaluation, the new approval term will be 24 months.*

2. Should I discontinue foster home re-evaluations that are due by June 30th?

*No. Re-evaluations due by June 30th must be completed, and upon completion they will receive an approval term of 24 months.*

3. Would this new change also be utilized for ICPC homes, or would that remain a one-year term?

*Yes. As per the ICPC Regulations an evaluation of a home environment is conducted in accordance with applicable requirements of the state in which the home is located. Therefore, the change of homes being approved for a period of 24 months includes ICPC homes.*

4. Does the 24-month approval term for foster homes include private agency as well as DFCS homes?

*Yes. The changes announced in CWSCL 2023-01 apply to DFCS and private agency foster homes.*

5. How will the CPS Screening Unit know when foster home re-evaluation is due?

*The date listed in GA+SCORE for re-evaluation will be the date the CPS Screening Unit will use when reviewing submitted requests.*

6. Are annual verifications still required for driver's license, automobile insurance, and annual training?

*Yes. Approved foster homes must maintain a current driver's license, automobile insurance, and complete annual trainings. Caregivers are required to report all major changes to the agency, and the agency will verify compliance with these requirements during home visits.*

7. Will SHINES deploy changes to reflect the new re-evaluation requirements?

*Yes. SHINES will deploy changes by July 2023*

8. Will SHINES automatically update the re-evaluation approval term for foster homes?

*SHINES will apply a 24-month approval term from the date of approval or the most recent reevaluation.*