

IX. REQUIREMENTS FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER CARE FACILITIES

The requirements for Residential/Group Home which pertain to the care of children prescribed under other sections of this document shall be followed. In addition, there shall be compliance with the following specific requirements for emergency shelter care facilities.

A. Admission and Planning:

1. The shelter care agency shall develop, with the Department, a plan for the temporary care of the children including the anticipated length of stay.
2. Children under ten (10) years of age shall not be placed in a congregate care setting (including group residential homes and shelters), unless the child has exceptional needs that cannot be met in another placement or the child is a member of a sibling group and express written approval is granted by the Department's Regional Director or designee. Sibling groups with one or more siblings under ten (10) years of age shall not remain in congregate care settings for more than forty-five (45) days.
3. For children who stay more than three (3) days, the shelter care facility shall cooperate with the Department in assessing the needs of the child. A plan based on the child's needs shall include the specific services to be provided by the shelter care facility and other resources required to meet the needs of the child.
4. For children who remain in care for twenty-one (21) days, an assessment shall be made to facilitate the permanent plan. The plan shall include reasons for continued care or other care and plans to eliminate barriers. Copies of the plan shall be maintained at the shelter facility as well as given to the Department.
5. The shelter care facility shall be open ~~at all hours~~ twenty-four (24) hours, seven (7) days per week, including holidays, for admission, when except when operating at licensed capacity.
6. The shelter care facility shall write a summary report of the care received by the child including any recommendations regarding the child and parent(s). This report shall be sent to the Department when the child leaves the shelter.
7. No child shall remain in an emergency or temporary facility for more than forty-five (45) calendar days unless there are exceptional circumstances and the Department's Director has granted express written approval and documented the need for the extension. -The shelter director shall notify the county of responsibility of discharge (14) fourteen calendar days prior to the forty-five (45) days.
8. No child shall be placed in more than one emergency or temporary facility within one episode of foster care, unless an immediate placement is necessary to protect the safety of the child or of others as certified in writing by the Regional Director.

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