



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 25-130

***MODERNIZATION AND EFFICIENCY OF THE LOUISIANA
FOSTER CARE SYSTEM***

WHEREAS, R.S. 46:281 *et seq.* grants broad powers and authority to the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services ("Department") to contract with persons or entities to provide foster care services to children within the Louisiana Foster Care system;

WHEREAS, R.S. 46:286.13 grants foster parents certain rights by the Department to support their role as the primary caregiver of abused and neglected children within the Louisiana Foster Care system;

WHEREAS, Louisiana's Foster Care system relies on the participation of prospective foster parents to provide safe and nurturing homes to foster children in Louisiana's care;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Louisiana to ensure that the Department efficiently manages the recruitment, training, certification, licensing, and ongoing compliance of caregivers within the Louisiana Foster Care system;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Louisiana to recruit new foster caregivers, to retain current caregivers within the Foster Care system, and to take measures to reduce instances of foster family homes turnover;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Louisiana to provide foster parents and caregivers with the support and resources to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Louisiana foster children;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Louisiana to provide foster parents and caregivers with the support and resources to mitigate the stress and potential burnout associated with caring for foster children;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana recognizes the importance of fostering traditional family values within its foster care system and is committed to advancing these values by providing

training and support to foster families, ensuring every child is raised in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment.

NOW THEREFORE I, JEFF LANDRY, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

Section 1: The Secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services (“Secretary”) shall review all licensing processes and procedures to strengthen and enhance efficiency in the Louisiana Foster Care system.

Section 2: The Secretary, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall develop and advance initiatives to increase participation, recruitment, and retention of foster parents and caregivers within the State, including but not limited to foster parent licensing software, platforms, or online portals.

Section 3: In furtherance of these initiatives, the Secretary, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall ensure the following rights enumerated in R.S. 46:286.13 are advanced and protected including but not limited to the right to:

- A. Respect and Equal Treatment- Foster parents have the right to be treated with dignity, respect, trust, and consideration as key members of the child’s care team. They are entitled to uniform treatment and access to information across the state.
- B. Clear Expectations and Explanations- Foster parents have the right to a clear explanation of everyone’s roles and responsibilities, along with evaluation and feedback of their own performance. The Department must provide written information outlining foster parent rights and duties.
- C. Access to Information- Foster parents have the right to all known information about a child that affects the child’s care, health, and safety, or that of the foster family.
- D. Training and Support- Foster parents have the right to necessary training and support, to enable them to meet the needs of children in their care.
- E. Timely Communication- Foster parents have the right to be informed in a timely manner about available support services, case planning meetings, legal proceedings, and other decision-making events and to participate in these as allowed by law.
- F. Participation in Decision Making- Foster parents have the right to actively participate in developing the child’s case plan, educational plan, and other service-related decisions.

- G. Family Loss and Separation Assistance- Foster parents have the right to 24-hour access to agency staff for emergencies, support during transitions when a child leaves their home, and access to advocacy services.
- H. Information- Foster Parents have the right to receive information concerning agency policies and procedures related to their role as a foster parent or to the child in their care, and information contained in the foster parents' record, as allowed by law.
- I. Placement and Adoption Preference- Foster parents have the right to be considered first for placement of a child previously in their care, and for adoption if that child becomes eligible and no relative placement is available.
- J. Advocacy Support- Foster parents have the right to allow a member of the Louisiana Advocacy Support Team accompany them in meetings with departmental staff during investigations or grievance procedures.

Section 4: The Secretary shall develop a plan to strengthen the Department's capacity to train, license, and provide effective oversight of caregivers in the Louisiana Foster Care System.

Section 5: No later than July 1, 2026, the Secretary shall provide a report to the Governor detailing (1) the reforms that are planned to be introduced or that will continue into the upcoming year and thereafter; the extent to which the Department has identified and addressed existing deficiencies and increased efficiencies within the foster care system, and (3) outlining any statutory or regulatory changes that may be necessary to implement these recommendations.

Section 6: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies, and officers of the state, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in the implementation of this Order.

Section 7: This Order is effective upon signature and shall continue in effect until amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded by the Governor, or terminated by operation of law.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 7th day of November, 2025.


Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY
OF STATE


Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE