

Unlicensed Relative Placements

(FY 2020 Appropriation Act - Public Act 67 of 2019)

March 1, 2020

Sec. 535. (1) *By December 1 of the current fiscal year, the department shall create a process in which unlicensed relatives are reviewed and approved as meeting the standards established for state licensing for foster care. For any placements approved as meeting the standards established for state licensing for foster care, the department shall seek title IV-E claims for foster care maintenance payments and foster care administrative payments.*

(2) *By March 1 of the current fiscal year, the department shall submit to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the senate and house policy offices a report on the number of unlicensed relative placements not approved as meeting the standards established for state licensing and the status of title IV-E claims described in subsection (1).*



Section 535(2) PA 67 of 2019

MDHHS has a process to review and approve unlicensed relative caregivers “as meeting the standards established for state licensing for foster care” through the Division of Child Welfare (DCWL) foster home licensing procedures. Per MCL 712A.13a(11), the department is required to perform a criminal record check, central registry clearance, and complete a home study to place a child with an unlicensed relative. Relative caregivers have the option of voluntarily completing the licensure process.

In fiscal year 2019, 510 relative caregivers were approved for licensure, 11 relatives had their licenses revoked or were denied licensure.

Efforts are underway to increase the number of relative caregivers who become licensed through the revision and simplification of foster home licensing rules, streamlining the licensing process, and making the licensing process more inclusive.