

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Distribution: X, Z and L

POLICY GUIDE 2011.01

CHILD WITH A DISABILITY IN CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS

DATE: January 11, 2010

TO: Rules and Procedures Bookholders, DCFS and Private Agency Licensing Staff

FROM: Erwin McEwen, Director 

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy Guide is to inform Department and Purchase of Services (POS) licensing staff the addition of the definition of “child with a disability” in licensed child care institutions and maternity centers.

II. PRIMARY USERS

The primary users of this policy guide are Department and POS licensing staff.

III. STATUTORITY POLICY

Recent changes in the Children and Family Service Act [20 ILCS505/5(y)] requires that children with a disability who received residential and educational services from the Department are eligible to receive transition services up to age 21, inclusive. The Department therefore is adding the following definition of “child with a disability” to Part 403, Licensing Standards for Group Homes and Part 404, Licensing Standards for Child Care Institutions and Maternity Centers so that children with a disability may receive transitional services up to age 22 while in the licensed facility.

IV. NEW DEFINITION

“Child with a disability” means a child up to the age of 22 years old - with mental retardation, hearing impairments (including deafness), speech or language impairments, visual impairments (including blindness), serious emotional disturbance (hereinafter referred to as emotional disturbance), orthopedic impairments, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairments, or specific learning disabilities; and who, by reason thereof, needs special education and related services. Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 [34 CFR part 300].



V. QUESTIONS

Questions regarding this Policy Guide may be directed to the Office of Child and Family Policy at 217-524-1983 or via Outlook at OCFP-Mailbox. Non Outlook users may e-mail questions to cfpolicy@idcfs.state.il.us.

VI. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

File this Policy Guide immediately following Rule 403 or Rule 404.