

OCFP Office of Child and Family Policy	Department of Children and Family Services	
	Index No: 98-35	Issuance Date: December 18, 1998
	Origin of Request: Central Office of Licensing	
	Distribution: Licensing Staff, Administrative Staff, Office of Child and Family Policy (A,L,P)	
	Key Words: 89 IAC 402, Licensing Standards for Foster Family Homes, Married Licensee's in the Military	
	Approved by:	

Interpretation

Applicable To: **Licensing Standards for Foster Family Homes**

Policy Citation: 402.12(a): The licensee(s) shall be either a single person or a man and woman married to each other. Each foster parent shall be willing and able to assume appropriate responsibilities for the child or children received for care.

402.12(d): All members of the household age 13 and older (except for foster children) shall have passed the background check required in 89 Ill. Adm. Code 385, Background Checks.

402.12(j): Each foster parent shall complete, as a condition of initial licensure, at least six clock hours of approved pre-service training.

402.12(k): In addition, each foster parent shall complete, as a condition of license renewal, approved in-service training in accordance with the schedule below. Child welfare agencies may require foster families under their supervision to complete additional training as a condition of continued supervision by the agency.

License Renewal Due In Year:	Clock Hours of Approved Training Required
1998	4.0
1999	8.0
2000	12.0
2001 or thereafter	16.0

Question: **A married couple is interested in becoming licensed foster parents. The husband is**

OCFP	Index No: 98-35	Issuance Date: 12-18-98
	Key Words: 89 IAC 402, Licensing Standards for Foster Family Homes, Married Licensee's in the Military	

in the military and is stationed in various remote locations for a year. The spouse is requesting to be licensed in her name only until her husband returns home. Can she obtain a license in her name?

Discussion: A couple who is legally married with no intent to divorce or separate are considered married applicants regardless of the occupation of the individuals.

Subsection 402.12(g) and (k) require that each adult obtain a background check and that both adult members of the family attend training. These are requirements that must be met by both adults and are not waved regardless of the adult's occupations. The Department has accommodated families in various ways who work away from the home and find it difficult to participate in all activities for licensure. Such accommodations could be arranged for families who are away in the military, for instance, finger printing could be scheduled during leaves.

It is the Department's intent to assist families in meeting the licensing standards while at the same time assuring that the families that become licensed are safe. A foster home license is granted for four years. During that four years the individual serving in the military will be home on leave and eventually will be living back home. The Department has a responsibility to assure the appropriateness of a family member prior to issuing a license.

Response: **One individual of a married couple cannot be a single licensee. Both adult members of the family shall meet the requirements of 89 Ill. Adm. Code 402, Licensing Standards for Foster Family Homes and be named on the license issued by the Department.**