

OFFICE OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN
Families and Children Letter FCL #067

TO: Directors, Public Agencies
Directors, Private Agencies
Administrators, Title IV-E Juvenile Courts

FROM: Jeffery Van Deusen, Deputy Director
Office of Families and Children

DATE: January 11, 2023

SUBJECT: Workforce and Rule Relaxation -Additional Strategies

Background

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) issued the following Family, Children and Adult Services Procedure Letters (FCASPLs) on August 22, 2022, to allow flexibility in child protection casework practice requirements and provide relief to the workforce. As a reminder, these workforce relaxation strategies are effective from September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023:

- [FCASPL 393 \(Rule Relaxations for PCSA Workforce\)](#)
- [FCASPL 394 \(Rule Relaxations for Public and Private Certified and Approved Agencies\)](#)

The children services workforce is essential to achieving the best outcomes for Ohio's children and families. Because of the challenges in recruiting and retaining children services staff, workforce has been, and continues to be, a critical priority for ODJFS.

The purpose of this Families and Children Letter (FCL) is to provide each public and private agency the link to submit additional relaxation strategies for consideration by February 1, 2023.

Purpose

In the interest of reducing organizational red tape, ODJFS will continue to consider recommendations from county partners to determine practice requirements that can be temporarily relaxed, and how it relates to future rule revisions and programming. Microsoft Forms have been developed to allow for both public and private agencies to submit additional suggested strategies to support the workforce. Each recommendation provided will be closely reviewed to ensure child safety is maintained, while also cross-referencing federal requirements and the Ohio Revised Code.

If your agency has additional recommendations, please have one agency representative complete a form by **February 1st, 2023**.

- [Public - Rule Relaxation and Workforce Strategy Recommendations](#)
- [Private - Rule Relaxation and Workforce Strategy Recommendations](#)

Additional Information

Once additional recommendations have been vetted, updated communication will be forthcoming including additional recommendations supported by ODJFS, guidance documents to assist with consistent implementation of relaxation strategies, as well as information on how automated systems, reporting, monitoring, and technical assistance may be impacted.

Contacts

If you have any questions, you may contact your Technical Assistance Specialist or the OFC Help Desk at 1-866-886-3537 option 4 or HELP-DESK_OCF@jfs.ohio.gov.