

Dakota County Mandate Recommendation

Child Care License			
Mandate	Statute	Rule	Comment
Delegate to Counties the Authority to Impose Sanctions on a Child Care License Except for Temporary Immediate Suspensions	MS §245A.07	MR 9502.03 15-9502.04 45	Propose that authority to impose sanctions on a license, except temporary immediate suspensions, be delegated to the county. Currently, the county is required to investigate all rule and statute violations pertaining to licensed family and group family childcare businesses. If the county determines that there is failure on behalf of the licensed program to comply with Minnesota Rule 9502 or the terms of licensure which adversely affect the health and safety of the children in care, the county only has the authority to recommend a negative licensing action to the Department of Human Services. Once the recommendation has been made to the Department, there is often a time delay of several weeks to several months before an order is issued by the State, thus children may continue to be served in unsafe environments. The county attorney is required to represent the commissioner in contested case proceedings and in reviewing and approving of county licensing recommendations before forwarding to the Department of Human Services.
Eliminate Requirement of Coordinating With Placement Workers the Visiting of Foster Care License Holders After First Placement in Child Foster Care		MR 9543.00 60 Subd. 5B	Propose the elimination of the requirement that the licensor “coordinate with placement workers to ensure that the license holder is visited by a placement worker or the licensor at least monthly for the first six months after the first placement in child foster care.” This requirement places an administrative burden for documentation on the county without providing a positive outcome for the children placed. Current regulations for children in placement as well as evidence-based practice assures frequent and case specific contact between children in placement, providers and social workers which is documented in the child's record. Additional documentation requirements in the foster care records are time consuming and provide no added benefit.