

Quality Standards Framework Regulations Implementation Bulletin #1: Overview of Regulations

JANUARY 4, 2023

Good morning/afternoon,

I am pleased to provide you with an update on activities underway and planned communications to support implementation of the Quality Standards Framework-related regulations, which come into effect on July 1, 2023.

The regulations are posted on e-laws and accessible [here](#).

Implementation Activities Underway

In July 2020, the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (ministry) publicly released the [Quality Standards Framework: A Resource Guide to Improve the Quality of Care for Children and Young Persons in Licensed Residential Settings](#) as part of the Child Welfare Redesign Strategy announcement. This document provides an overview of what high-quality out of home care¹ looks like across all sectors and settings that make up out of home care for children and young persons in Ontario. The Quality Standards Framework was developed in response to a recommendation from the Office of the Chief Coroner's expert panel report [Safe with Intervention](#) and is based on feedback from a panel of youth with lived experience. The ministry is taking a phased and intentional approach to implementation of the Quality Standards Framework, which includes new and updated regulatory changes.

On August 30, 2022, the ministry released communications to notify sector partners of regulatory amendments to Ontario Regulations [155/18](#) and [156/18](#) under the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017* (CYFSA). These changes are intended to support operationalization of the Quality Standards Framework and to strengthen the quality of care provided by licensees and placing agencies.

We recognize that these changes will have an impact on out of home care licensees and placing agencies. To help the sector prepare, the ministry will be releasing a number of tools and resources, including:

¹ Although the term **residential** is a legal term under the CYFSA and its regulations, the ministry is using the term "out-of-home care" instead of "residential" to acknowledge the traumatic history of the Residential School system in Canada. We recognize the importance of choosing different language, especially, since the term may be triggering to some.

- Guidance documents,
- Sample templates,
- Training,
- Information technology system updates,
- Website updates,
- Communications (Questions & Answers),
- Foster Parent Training Portal, and
- Youth Friendly Resources.

Sector Engagement

To support the development of the guidance documents, templates and training, the ministry engaged a variety of sector partners through a Quality Standards Framework Regulations Implementation Working Group. Participants in this working group represented the child welfare, youth justice, complex special needs and child and youth mental health sectors. They were nominated by their sector agencies and organizations that are represented on the ministry's Out of Home Care Stakeholder Table. The Quality Standards Framework Regulations Implementation Working Group met five times in November 2022 and provided practical and valuable input on how these materials can best support out of home care service providers across the province.

We would like to take this time to extend our sincere appreciation for those who took the time out of their busy schedules to participate in these meetings. The feedback received through these discussions was invaluable and is informing updates to the supporting tools and resources.

Upcoming Communications

In addition to the above noted tools and resources, between January and March 2023, the ministry will be releasing weekly bulletins to out of home care service providers and placing agencies on each of the new and updated regulatory topics which cover the following areas:

- Foster parent training,
- Pre-service education qualifications,
- Pre-admission/placement assessments and conditions on placement,
- Plans of care,
- Safety plans,
- Case management,
- Physical restraints,
- Mechanical restraints,
- Complaints,
- Education, and
- Other minor enhancements.

These bulletins are intended to help familiarize licensees and placing agencies with the new regulatory requirements, and answer questions about how they can start preparing for implementation as they seek to comply with the new requirements by July 1, 2023.

Who should I be sharing this information with?

This information should be shared with all service providers who are licensed by the ministry to provide out of home care. Licensees are also encouraged to share this information with each of their staff and foster parents and should also seek opportunities to speak about the new and updated requirements with children and young persons in their care.

Contact

If you require assistance with respect to the interpretation of the legislation and its potential application in specific circumstances, you should seek legal advice. You may also contact your regional licensing team for more information as you implement the new requirements. Any additional questions pertaining to future activities to support operationalization of the new regulations can be directed to qualitystandardsframework@ontario.ca.

Next steps

As a next step, we will be continuing to develop and finalize the implementation activities. We understand the importance of releasing these materials to our sector partners as soon as possible. We will continue to provide updates as we can and as the materials are ready to be released.

Stay tuned! The next Quality Standards Framework Regulations Implementation Bulletin will be sent next week, and the topic will be **foster parent training requirements**.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the well-being of children and young persons across the province who require out of home care!