

SECTION 38 - L040 - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

support and flexibility to Group Homes in order to best enable any necessary transition of services or the development of new service models for children and young adults. Group Homes with young adults between the ages of 18 to 23 years residing in approved and supervised independent living programs shall not be required to provide 24 hours per day face to face supervision for the resident. Regulatory and contractual requirements must not be different for supervision and staff ratios when a young adult aged 18 to 23 is a resident in an approved and supervised independent living program.

38.29. (DSS: Faith-Based Private Child Placing Agencies) From the funds appropriated to the Department of Social Services, the department shall make and promulgate such rules and regulations relating to licensing standards and other matters as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of Title 63, Chapter 11, Article 1 of the 1976 Code as applied to faith-based private Child Placing Agencies. For purposes of these regulations, any person or entity who holds legal or physical custody of a child for the purpose of placement for foster care or adoption or a private placement and, which for the purposes of these regulations, retain their own system of foster homes, is a child placing agency as defined in S.C. Code of Regulations 114-550. Such regulation must not discriminate or suggest the taking of any adverse action against a faith-based child-placing agency or an agency seeking to become a child-placing agency on the basis, wholly or partly, that a faith-based child placing agency has declined or will decline to provide any service that conflicts with, or provide any service under circumstances that conflict with, a sincerely-held religious belief or moral conviction of the faith-based child placing agency.

****38.30.** (DSS: Foster Care Child Placements) *With funds appropriated and authorized to the Department of Social Services for Fiscal Year 2018-19, the department shall ensure that the following provisions are implemented related to child placements. The department shall promulgate any necessary rules or regulations to implement these provisions:*

(A) If a child in foster care has been placed within the same foster home for at least 9 consecutive months and if the foster parents are willing to provide permanency through adoption for the child, the department must obtain an attachment assessment, as defined through rules or regulations promulgated by the agency, of the child and current foster parents before selecting a different adoptive placement

** See note at end of Act.