



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Family and Community Services

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Rachel Bylsma,
Deputy Chief of Staff

Rebecca Polizzotto,
Legislation, Regulations, & Legislative Research Section

FROM: Tracy Dompeling
Acting Commissioner, Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS)

DATE: March 6, 2026

RE: Department of Family and Community Services Regulatory Reform Plan

Section 1: Baseline Review

The Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS) has completed its baseline review of discretionary regulatory requirements as required by AO 360. The total number of discretionary requirements under DFCS authority is 2,542. The department anticipates a net reduction of at least 381 requirements in 2026 and a further reduction of at least 255 requirements in 2027.

The baseline includes discretionary requirements contained in regulations and materials incorporated by reference.

The baseline excludes mandatory requirements imposed by AO 360 and guidance only materials and discretionary requirements that remain under shared authority with the Department of Health (DOH) due to the reorganization in 2022.

DFCS does not have any regulation packages in process, therefore there are no additional discretionary requirements to be taken into consideration.

| Regulation | Number of Discretionary Requirements |
|--|---|
| 7 AAC 52 (Division of Juvenile Justice Facilities) | 525 |
| 7 AAC 53 (Social Services) | 285 |
| 7 AAC 54 (Administration) | 166 |
| 7 AAC 56 (Child Placement Agencies) | 760 |
| 7 AAC 58 (Citizen Review Panel) | 93 |
| 7 AAC 67 (Foster Care Licensing Standards) | 298 |
| 7 AAC 72 (Civil Commitment) | 237 |
| 7 AAC 74 (Alaska Pioneer Homes) | 178 |
| Total | 2,542 |

Section 2: Stakeholder Engagement

DFCS solicited stakeholder input on the regulations through public comment and oral hearings. The notices were published on the State of Alaska Online Public Notice System, and the department emailed the notices to the parties on the interested stakeholders list.

| Topic | Comment Period | Stakeholder Meeting |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Designated Facilities: 7 AAC 72 | October 2 – November 15 | October 14 1pm-2:30pm |
| Alaska Pioneer Homes: 7 AAC 74 | October 2 – November 15 | October 15 1pm-2:30pm |
| Division of Juvenile Justice Facilities: 7 AAC 52 | October 2 – November 15 | October 16 9-11am |
| Licensing Procedures: Foster Home Licensing 7 AAC 67 Child Placement Agency Licensing 7 AAC 56 General licensing and background checks 7 AAC 10.010-.9990 | October 13 – November 15 | October 22 9am-10:30am |
| Rates, Subsidies, Fees, and Grant Programs: 7 AAC 53.010-.415 7 AAC 53.900-.965 7 AAC 78 7 AAC 80.100-.190 7 AAC 80.900-.990 7 AAC 81 | October 13 – November 15 | October 23 9am-10:30am |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Administration: Grievance Procedures 7 AAC 54.245-.260</p> <p>Citizen Review Panel 7 AAC 58</p> <p>Electronic and Other Records Containing Behavioral Health Information 7 AAC 85</p> | <p>October 13 – November 15</p> | <p>October 24 9am-10:30am</p> |
|---|--|--|

DFCS received very few comments from the public comment period. The stakeholder feedback is in the attached document, DFCS-AO 360-Public Comments. In addition, DFCS continues to solicit feedback from stakeholders on how to revise regulations to reduce administrative burden and improve programs while ensuring regulations provide for the health and safety of vulnerable Alaskans.

Section 3: Proposed Regulatory Reform

DFCS intends to modernize regulations for statutory alignment, current practices, and long-term fiscal sustainability. Historically, the regulations under the authority of DFCS have not been updated timely which has resulted in significant gaps in practice and care. Since DFCS is the newest department in Alaska, the proposed regulatory reform includes regulations to be revised and regulations to be created to ensure accurate reflection of DFCS operations.

The summary of the regulations is as follows; however, more details are on the attached document DFCS-AO 360 Action Plan.

Regulations under DFCS authority, proposed actions:

- Significantly revising Chapter 72 Civil Commitment to modernize the program and align with state statute
- Amend certain regulations within Chapter 53 Social Services to modernize the fee structures and align with legislative appropriations
- Amend certain regulations within Chapter 54 Administration to create a department-wide grievance procedure and clarify requirements to request an evidentiary hearing
- Create regulations pertaining to the appeal of substantiations as required in AS 47.17.040
- Amend regulations in Chapter 74 Alaska Pioneer Homes to reduce redundant regulatory requirements
- Significantly revise the regulations in Chapter 56 Child Placement Agencies to modernize the program and reflect better licensure practice
- Amend regulations within Chapter 52 Division of Juvenile Justice Facilities to remove redundant and unnecessary regulations
- Reduce the number of unnecessary requirements within Chapter 67 Foster Care Licensing, Health and Safety in the foster home to reflect better licensure practice

Regulations with DOH shared authority, proposed actions:

- Continue shared authority: 7 AAC 10.900–.990 (Background checks); 7 AAC 85 (Records containing behavioral health information)
- Create new DFCS regulations to separate from current shared regulations: 7 AAC 10.9500–.9535 (General variance procedures); 7 AAC 10.9600–.9620 (Inspections and investigations); 7 AAC 78 (Grant programs); 7 AAC 81 (Grant services for individuals)
- Realign fee structures: Move foster care–related fees to 7 AAC 53 (Social Services); move general services fees to 7 AAC 54 (Administration)

Section 4: Approved Deadline Extensions

DFCS has not requested any deadline extensions.

Section 5:

The Commissioner affirms that the Department of Family and Community Services proposed regulatory reform plan has been reviewed and approved.

Sincerely,



Tracy Dompeling
Acting Commissioner

Cc: Josh Applebee, Special Assistant, Governor's Office
Catherine Lujan, Special Assistant, Governor's Office

Enclosures: DFCS AO 360 Action Plan
DFCS AO 360 Public Comments