



Kern Regional Center

AB 637 Proposal

Kern Regional Center (KRC) is petitioning the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) for approval of an AB637 waiver to was for the approval to waive California Code of Regulations, Title 17 §56088 (b)(7), which states “that the family home shall be used exclusively as a residence by the FHA which issued the Certificate of Approval.” KRC is requesting that Title 17 §56088, (b) (7) be waived to allow the two KRC individuals residing with Family Home Provider to continue living in the home while the Family Home Provider is operating their business.

CA Mentor Family Home Providers are trained professionals who provide services and supports to KRC individuals residing in their homes. The Services and Supports provided to the individuals are determined through the individual’s preferences during the initial Family Home Provider matching process, the life planning process, and ongoing meetings with the individual’s support team which consists of family or representative (if applicable), the family home provider(s), CA Mentor Coordinator, KRC Service Coordinator, and a possible representative from a community activity that the individuals may be involved in. KRC individuals are encouraged to participate and be involved in their chosen family home provider’s daily routines, holiday celebrations, and activities to build the relationships in the home and thrive within their chosen community. CA Mentor Family Home Providers go through a series of background checks, interviews, home studies, criminal record checks, and checks with relevant state agencies. They also receive initial and ongoing training in order to continue to provide services and supports to KRC individuals.

KRC is requesting a waiver for a Family Home provider with Adult Family Home Agency, California Mentor-North, to continue to operate a business which is located on a separate property behind their family home. The business, which offers Bakersfield residents the opportunity to rent bounce houses or water slides owned by the Family Home Provider and Spouse. The business is managed by the Family Home Provider’s Spouse and Son. The business is only open during the months of March through July and is operated only during the weekends. The business has a private driveway separate from the entrance to the family home. The entrance leads to a back area of the property where a second house is located, where storage units are located, and a parking area for the business’ vehicles are located. There are two relatives of the Family Home Provider who are living in the second house which have been cleared by DDS. The business area is fenced and separate from the Family home Provider’s home as well as their backyard. The business area can only be accessed through the approval of the Family Home Providers as the gate can only be opened by a remote located inside their home or their son who also operates the business.



The Family Home Providers involved have been providers for approximately 22 years. KRC's request to waive Title 17 §56088 (b)(7) is client specific to two KRC individuals who currently live in their home. The KRC individuals involved have been residing with the Family Home Providers for more than 17 years. The two individuals have created a bond with the Family Home Providers and their family.

The business has not affected the Family Home Provider's ability to provide the ongoing services, supports, or fulfill the needs to the individuals residing in their home. The two KRC individuals have not expressed concerns or issues regarding the business. Both individuals are part of the Family Home Provider's family and the bond they have with the Family Home Provider's is noticeable, and it's evident that the two individuals are considered to be part of the family. The Family Home Providers ensure the two KRC individuals' input, thoughts, and/or comments are always accounted for in big family decisions. The two KRC individuals would like to remain living in the home and are not employees of the business or help with the business. The Family Home Providers reason for having the business is so they can be financially independent and not rely on the income being received for the individuals residing in their home. The two individuals residing in the home, CA Mentor, and KRC Service Coordinator have not reported any concerns about the business or the family home provider not being able to provide services to the individuals.

If at any time, KRC determines the Family Home Provider's business is affecting the services, care, or supports being provided to the individuals, then KRC will notify DDS. KRC will then recommend for the provider to end the business or to be decertified and the individuals will be relocated.

There are no additional costs to Kern Regional Center. This proposal will not change the existing vendored rates for CA Mentor-North and thus will not affect the rates for the two individuals in question nor of the other clients served. This proposal will not reduce any direct services to persons with developmental disabilities. KRC and CA Mentor-North employees will continue to monitor the Family Home Providers and evaluate the proposal's effectiveness, as well as the two individual's satisfaction. The KRC Community Services FHA Liaison will join in person meetings for the individuals every 6 months to ensure they are receiving the services and supports needed. Also, during the meetings, KRC will complete a walkthrough of the property and will ensure all employees over the age of 18 have been cleared as a visitor to the property.