



## **EXPULSION AND SUSPENSION POLICY**

Effective January 1, 2025, Providers participating in Beanstalk's Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN) may not decide to expel or suspend a child without following Beanstalk's policies and procedures that are aligned with WIC section 10491.

### **Definition:**

"Expulsion" means the permanent dismissal of a child from a program in response to a child's behavior

"Suspension" means any removal of a child from all or part of the program day, or the prevention of a child from attending the program for one or more days, in response to the child's behavior.

"Persistent and serious behaviors" means either repeated patterns of behavior that significantly interfere with the learning of other children, or interactions with peers and adults that are not responsive to the use of developmentally appropriate guidance. This includes, but is not limited to, physical aggression, property destruction, and self-injury.

## **SUSPENSION PROCEDURES**

Suspension shall only be used as a last resort in extraordinary circumstances when there is a serious safety threat that cannot be reduced or eliminated without the removal of the child.

- If a provider determines after documenting the persistent and serious behaviors and providing supports/resources to the child that there is a serious safety threat that cannot be eliminated without the removal of the child, the provider may request Beanstalk to suspend the child.
- The Provider provides documentation to Beanstalk staff of the reason for suspension.
- Beanstalk will issue the Notice of Action (NOA) specific to suspension and expulsion to the parent/guardian.
- In the 24-hour window prior to the effective date of the suspension, the Provider may reach out to Beanstalk for support, and Beanstalk will document what support were provided.
- The Provider and Beanstalk staff will collaborate to help the child return to full participation in the program, including the following on a written plan:

- Provider continues to engage the family to support the child.
- Beanstalk staff supports the Provider to make referrals to and access community resources, as needed.
  
- If the child has an IFSP/IEP, Beanstalk reaches out to the agency responsible for the IFSP/IEP to discuss how to best support the child.
- Provider may request Beanstalk to schedule a meeting with Beanstalk staff, family and the Provider.

If the provider reaches out to Beanstalk for support and does not receive a response within a reasonable amount of time, the provider may contact the CDSS assigned Program Quality Improvement Consultant and their administrator for technical assistance. Contact information can be found on the CDSS Consultant Regional Assignments Contact Website.

## **EXPULSION PROCEDURES**

If the child exhibits persistent and serious behaviors, Beanstalk staff and the provider will collaborate to expeditiously pursue and document reasonable steps to maintain the child's safe participation in the program. Per WIC section 10491 (a) (1), Beanstalk shall do the following:

- Beanstalk staff notifies the parent/guardian of the process the program must follow.
- Beanstalk staff and the provider shall consult with the child's parent/guardian, and, if available, our staff shall engage our Social-Emotional Coach to support educators and caregivers in the co-development of a support plan. To ensure this process is timely, the staff may schedule these meetings in a virtual format.
- Beanstalk staff, in collaboration with the family and the provider, determines whether obtaining a comprehensive developmental screening such as: Ages & Stages Questionnaires: Social-Emotional (ASQ) is appropriate.
- Refer the parent/guardian to community resources.
- Implement behavior supports within the program.
- If the child has an IFSP/IEP, Beanstalk reaches out to the agency responsible for the IFSP/IEP to discuss how to best support the child. The provider and the parent/guardian should be involved in this consultation to the extent possible.

If Beanstalk staff, in collaboration with the provider, has expeditiously pursued and documented the reasonable steps to maintain the child's safe participation in the program and the provider determines that the child's continued enrollment would present a serious safety threat to the child or other enrolled children, Beanstalk expels the child and must refer the parent/guardian to other potentially appropriate child care placements.

The determination to expel the child must be made in consultation with the parent/guardian of the child, the provider, our staff, and, if applicable, the local agency responsible for implementing the IFSP or IEP.

Beanstalk shall, at the same time, inform the parent or guardian in writing of their right to file an appeal of the action directly with California Department of Social Services (CDSS) by submitting a written request for an appeal hearing no later than 14 calendar days after receipt of the notice. (For more information, See the Right to Appeal Procedure)

Since the action to suspend or expel a child involves persistent and serious behaviors impacting the safety of children, the child may not attend the program during the appeal process.

Beanstalk shall offer training opportunities to providers on topics that support the prevention of suspension and expulsion in family child care homes as well as those training needs identified by the provider.

## **FAMILY EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Beanstalk shall provide information to the provider about the family's goals for the child and/or any support needed for the child shared by the family during the enrollment process in advance of the first day of services. The agency will pursue a minimum of two opportunities annually to engage and communicate with families around ways to support their child's social and emotional development.