



**NOTICE OF RULEMAKING DOCKET OPENING**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY**  
**CHILD WELFARE AGENCY LICENSING**

[R16-65]

- 1. Title and its heading:** 21, Child Safety

**Chapter and its heading:** 7, Department Of Child Safety – Child Welfare Agency Licensing

**Article and its heading:** To be determined

**Section numbers:** To be determined
- 2. The subject matter of the proposed rule:**

A.R.S. § 8-503 authorizes the Department to establish rules, regulations and standards for the licensing of child welfare agencies and exercise supervision over all child welfare agencies. A.R.S. § 8-505 requires a child welfare agency to be licensed by the Department and assigns the Department the authority to issue and renew licenses for child welfare agencies. A.R.S. § 8-506.01 assigns the Department the authority to deny, suspend or revoke the license of any child welfare agency that willfully violates or fails to maintain the standards of care prescribed by the Department. The Department is developing rules to include in Title 21 Child Safety to enable it to comply with A.R.S. §§ 8-505 and 8-506.01 and any other applicable requirements of A.R.S. Title 8, Chapter 4, Article 4 (A.R.S. §§ 8-501 *et seq*) dealing with child welfare agencies.

The Department is developing new rules covering the Department's licensing, regulation and enforcement of standards for child welfare agencies under Title 21 *Child Safety* that will replace existing rules covering the same subject matter under Title 6 *Economic Security*. The new rules will correct citations, replace references to the Department of Economic Security with the Department of Child Safety and update information to include Department responsibilities, procedures, and practices.
- 3. A citation to all published notices relating to the proceeding:**

Notice of Public Information: 21 A.A.R. 1838, September 11, 2015

Notice of Oral Proceeding: 21 A.A.R. 1866, September 11, 2015
- 4. The name and address of agency personnel with whom persons may communicate regarding the rule:**

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Website: <https://dcs.az.gov/about/dcs-rules-rulemaking>
- 5. The time during which the agency will accept written comments and the time and place where oral comments may be made:**

Written comments on this rulemaking can be submitted at any time to [+DCSPolicyUpdate@azdes.gov](mailto:+DCSPolicyUpdate@azdes.gov). Formal written comments for the rulemaking record will be accepted after the publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Arizona Administrative Register and prior to the close of public record date, which has not been determined. The Department has not scheduled any oral proceedings at this time.
- 6. A timetable for agency decisions or other action on the proceeding, if known:**

The Department plans to begin listening sessions with subject matter experts during the second quarter of 2016. The Department plans to consult with interested stakeholders and others during the third quarter of 2016 to develop a draft of the proposed rules. The Department will publish proposed draft rules in the Arizona Administrative Register, possibly in the fourth quarter of 2016, providing the public the opportunity to provide written comments by U.S. Mail and through the Department website; and oral comments during a scheduled public hearing on the proposed rules. The Department plans to consider public comments on the proposed rules prior to publishing the final rules.