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To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your recent inquiry about becoming a Broward and/or Palm Beach County Licensed Child Care Agency/Group Home. As of July 1, 2003, the responsibility for contracting of group care services for dependent children has been assigned by the Department of Children & Families (DCF) to ChildNet, the designated lead agency for Community Based Care in Broward and Palm Beach Counties. Please read the following paragraphs carefully as they describe the requirements which must be met in order to operate a group home.

Chapter 65C-14, Florida Administrative Code and Chapter 409.175, Florida Statutes govern Child Caring Agency operation. In addition, Chapter 435 Florida Statutes provides background-screening requirements for prospective owners, operators and employees of group homes. **The Florida Statutes and Administrative Codes are accessible through the Internet** (See page 2 of this letter for detailed instructions).

Please find attached to this letter the Guidelines for Community Residential Homes, an application packet containing required forms to be completed and submitted to DCF (A step-by-step guide is located on page 14 within the Guidelines for Community Residential Homes) and ChildNet's Policy and Procedures regarding the procurement of new services. It is important that you understand that being licensed as a group home provider does not, in any way, ensure that ChildNet will place dependent children in your facility. ChildNet only places dependent children in group homes operated by providers with whom we have a contract to provide this specific service. However, in unique individual cases additional placement options may be explored provided that an agency has been credentialed through our Network Provider Application and Credentialing process. New contracts for group homes will be issued through a competitive public process and only when a current program must be replaced or staff and stakeholder input indicates a need for new or additional services and the financial resources are available to support that service. If you would like to be notified about future contract procurement opportunities, please contact our Director of Contracts at (954) 414-6000, ext. 3816.

Once again, thank you for your interest in providing care for Broward and Palm Beach's most vulnerable children. If you have questions, concerns or require additional information, please contact us directly at (954) 414-6000, ext. 3816.

Sincerely,

Denese Rankine-Palmer
Director of Contracts