

## SUMMARY OF SUBSTANCE

The proposed amendment of 18 NYCRR 443.1 would establish the definition of “relative” as an (1) adult who is related to the parent(s) or stepparent(s) of a child through blood, marriage or adoption to any degree of kinship; (2) an adult with a positive relationship to the child or child’s family including but not limited to a child’s godparent, neighbor, family friend; or (3) an unrelated person where placement with such person allows half -siblings to remain together in an approved foster home, and the parents or stepparents of one of the half -siblings is a relative of such person. The definition of “approved home” and “approved emergency relative foster home” would be expanded to include such definition of relative, as opposed to relatives only within the third degree of consanguinity. Emergency certification would be repealed, as all categories of persons eligible for emergency certification would be added to the “approved emergency foster home” definition.

The proposed amendment of 18 NYCRR 443.7 would make corresponding changes to the process for approving an emergency foster home to include all relatives as defined in 443.1. References to certification of emergency foster homes would be deleted.