

§ 96.58 Notification of accreditation and approval decisions.

(a) The accrediting entity must routinely inform applicants in writing of its accreditation and approval decisions—whether an application has been granted or denied—as those decisions are finalized. The accrediting entity must routinely provide this information to the Secretary in writing.

(b) The accrediting entity may, in its discretion, communicate with agencies and persons that have applied for accreditation or approval about the status of their pending applications to afford them an opportunity to correct deficiencies that may hinder or prevent accreditation or approval.

[79 FR 40635, July 14, 2014]

§ 96.59 Review of decisions to deny accreditation or approval.

(a) There is no administrative or judicial review of an accrediting entity’s decision to deny an application for accreditation or approval. As provided in § 96.79, a decision to deny for these purposes includes:

(1) A denial of the agency’s or person’s initial application for accreditation or approval;

(2) A denial of an application made after cancellation or refusal to renew by the accrediting entity; and

(3) A denial of an application made after cancellation or debarment by the Secretary.

(b) The agency or person may petition the accrediting entity for reconsideration of a denial. The accrediting entity must establish internal review procedures that provide an opportunity for an agency or person to petition for reconsideration of the denial.

§ 96.60 Length of accreditation or approval period.

(a) The accrediting entity will accredit or approve an agency or person for a period of four years, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section. The accreditation or approval period will commence on the date that the agency or person is granted accreditation or approval.

(b) In order to stagger the renewal requests from agencies and persons applying for accreditation or approval

and to prevent the renewal requests from coming due at the same time, the accrediting entity may extend the period of accreditation it has previously granted for no more than one year and such that the total period of accreditation does not exceed five years, as long as the agency or person remains in substantial compliance with the applicable standards in subpart F of this part. The only agencies and persons that may qualify for an extension are: Those that have no pending Complaint Registry investigations or adverse actions (see § 96.70); and those that have not undergone a change in corporate or internal structure (such as a merger or change in chief executive or financial officer) during their current accreditation or approval period. For agencies and persons that meet these two criteria, the Secretary, in his or her discretion, may consider additional factors in deciding upon an extension including, but not limited to, the agency’s or person’s volume of intercountry adoption cases in the year preceding the application for renewal or extension, the agency’s or person’s state licensure record, and the number of extensions available.

[80 FR 50196, Aug. 19, 2015]

§ 96.61 [Reserved]

Subpart H—Renewal of Accreditation or Approval

§ 96.62 Scope.

The provisions in this subpart establish the procedures for renewal of an agency’s accreditation or a person’s approval.

[71 FR 8131, Feb. 15, 2006, as amended at 79 FR 40636, July 14, 2014]

§ 96.63 Renewal of accreditation or approval.

(a) The accrediting entity must advise accredited agencies and approved persons that it monitors of the date by which they should seek renewal of their accreditation or approval so that the renewal process can reasonably be completed prior to the expiration of the agency’s or person’s current accreditation or approval. If the accredited agency or approved person does