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|  | INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY | |
| | Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Services | Effective Date: June 1, 2021 |
| | Section 16: Resource Parent's Role | Version: 5 |

POLICY OVERVIEW

Foster care provides a safe, nurturing, stable and temporary environment for children who can no longer remain in their own homes due to the risk of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (CA/N). The resource parent's role is to provide care and supervision on a 24 hour basis for a child who is a Child in Need of Services (CHINS) or under a juvenile court order. Additionally, an important role for the resource parent is to support the child's positive identification and strengthen relationships with the child's family of origin.

PROCEDURE

- The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will require the resource parent to:
1. Participate in planning, through Child and Family Team (CFT) Meetings and/or Case Conferences, and supporting Case Plan goals, including any Concurrent Plan (see policies 5.07 Child and Family Team Meetings, 5.08 Developing the Case Plan, and 5.15 Concurrent Planning);
 2. Provide a positive and nurturing environment for the child;
 3. Ensure the child has an opportunity to complete a Lifebook.
 4. Provide for the child's basic needs (e.g., food, clothing, and shelter) (see policies 16.01 Clothing, Personal Items, and Permitted Per Diem Expenses and 16.02 Assistance for Unlicensed Relative Placements);
 5. Maintain discretion when sharing information regarding the child and the child's family;
 6. Maintain a neutral attitude when discussing visitation with the child or other interactions between the child and the child's parent, guardian, or custodian;
 7. Encourage and support the maximum amount of interaction between the parent, guardian, or custodian and the child, with consideration given to:
 - a. The child's comfort level;
 - b. Safety concerns;
 - c. The needs of the child; and
 - d. The court's current visitation order.
 8. Refrain from speaking negatively about any member of the child's family or other persons with whom the child has a significant relationship;
 9. Provide a safe and nurturing atmosphere to allow the child to express feelings about the situation (e.g., feelings regarding the initial separation, abuse or neglect suffered, reunification [if applicable], and visitation);
 10. Ensure the child receives appropriate routine health care (see policy 8.29 Routine Health Care);
 11. Keep the child's Medical Passport current with the child's most recent health care information (see policy 8.27 Maintaining Health Records – Medical Passport);

12. Participate in court hearings, as appropriate, and encourage all youth 14 years of age and older to attend scheduled court hearings (see policy 6.14 Children Attending Court Proceedings);

Note: The resource parent may choose to provide information verbally and/or submit written information to the Court about the child in care. The resource parent may submit a written statement utilizing the Indiana Relative/Kinship/Foster Placement Reporting Form. However, the resource parent may choose to submit a written statement to the Court in another format.

13. Use the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard when determining whether a child should participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities; and
14. Provide notification to DCS when there is a change in household members (see policies 12.12 Foster Family Home Capacity and 13.09 Conducting Background Checks for Foster Family Home Licensing).

Note: A foster family home may not provide overnight or regular and continuous care and supervision to a child who is the subject of a power of attorney while providing care to a child placed in the home by DCS or probation without an exception.

Regarding the resource parent's role, the Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Review and discuss the above procedure and the Resource Parent Role Acknowledge form with the resource parent; and
2. Provide the resource parent with a copy of the Resource Parent Role Acknowledgement form.
3. Provide the child with any pertinent family history and any available pictures of the child, the child's family, and any other significant places and/or individuals to assist in completing the Lifebook.

The FCM Supervisor will:

1. Discuss case specifics and any concerns with the FCM during regular staffing and clinical supervision; and
2. Ensure the placement is documented in the case management system.

The Regional Foster Care Specialist (RFCS) or Relative Support Specialist (RSS) will:

1. Review and discuss the above procedure with the resource parent;
2. Provide the resource parent with one (1) copy of the Resource Parent Role Acknowledgement form, obtain the resource parent's signature on the form, and upload the original signed signature page to the case management system.

The RFCS or RSS Supervisor will guide and assist the RFCS or RSS during regular staffing and clinical supervision.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 29-3-9-1: Delegation of powers by executed power of attorney; limitations](#)
- [42 USC 675 \(10\)\(A\): Definitions the term "reasonable and prudent parent standard"](#)

RELEVANT INFORMATION

Definitions

Clinical Supervision

Clinical Supervision is a process in which an individual with specific knowledge, expertise, or skill provides support while overseeing and facilitating the learning of another individual.

Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard

The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard is the standard a caregiver shall use when determining whether to allow a child in foster care, who is under the responsibility of the State, to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities. The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard is characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety, and best interests of a child while at the same time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of the child.

Resource Parent

For purposes of DCS policy, a resource parent includes a foster/adoptive parent, foster parent, and licensed or unlicensed relative or kinship caregiver.

Forms and Tools

- [8.F Tool: Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard](#)
- Case Plan (SF 2956) – Available in the case management system
- [Indiana Relative/Kinship/Foster Placement Reporting Form](#)
- [Medical Passport \(DCS Pamphlet 036\)](#)
- [Resource Parent Role Acknowledgement \(SF 54642\)](#)

Related Policies

- [5.07 Child and Family Team Meetings](#)
- [5.08 Developing the Case Plan](#)
- [5.15 Concurrent Planning](#)
- [6.14 Children Attending Court Proceedings](#)
- [8.27 Maintaining Health Records – Medical Passport](#)
- [8.29 Routine Health Care](#)
- [12.12 Foster Family Home Capacity](#)
- [13.09 Conducting Background Checks for Foster Family Home Licensing](#)
- [16.01 Clothing, Personal Items, and Permitted Per Diem Expenses](#)
- [16.02 Assistance for Unlicensed Relative Placements](#)