

Foster Parents' Rights and Responsibilities

State of Washington

Rights and Responsibilities

- The RIGHT to be treated with consideration and respect by agency staff;
- The RIGHT to a supportive relationship with the agency;
- The RIGHT to receive timely reimbursement for children placed in their care;
- The RIGHT to receive training as members of the child's professional team;
- The RIGHT to receive notice of and be present at all shared planning meetings;
- The RIGHT to give input into decisions regarding the child in their care and to be treated as a valued member of the team in developing case plans for the child;
- The RIGHT to a clear explanation or description of their role as foster parents and the role of the child's family and the agency;
- The RIGHT to give and receive timely pertinent information about the child placed in their care;
- The RIGHT to be informed of any grievance procedures or access to any appeals process should they wish to appeal the agency's policy, regulation, or plan for a child in their care;
- The RIGHT to continue their own family patterns and traditions;
- The RIGHT to refuse to accept a child into their family if they feel they cannot meet the needs of the child or the placement may affect the well-being of the foster family;
- The RIGHT to be notified of any Court Hearing or Administrative Review, concerning a child in their care;
- The RIGHT to be present and heard in all court proceedings involving a dependent child in their care;
- The RIGHT to submit a written Caregivers Report to the Court regarding the child in their care, for any Review Hearing or Permanency Planning Hearing;
- The RIGHT to be included in the permanency consideration for the child who is in the foster family's care;
- The RIGHT & RESPONSIBILITY to advocate for children in their care;
- The RESPONSIBILITY for the day-to-day care and nurturance of the child;
- The RESPONSIBILITY to inform the agency of any changes in the child's life and in the foster parent's household;
- The RESPONSIBILITY to respect a child's biological family, traditions, culture and values;
- The RESPONSIBILITY to help a child placed in their care maintain regular and on-going contact with siblings not in the same placement;
- The RESPONSIBILITY to gain further knowledge and expertise regarding the care of children by attending on-going foster parent training;
- The RESPONSIBILITY to work cooperatively with agency staff as valued members of the child's team; and
- The RESPONSIBILITY to ensure a child's safety, health and well-being needs are met.