

REASONABLE & PRUDENT PARENTING WHAT FOSTER PARENTS SHOULD KNOW

Additional provisions of the Foster Parents' Bill of Rights

The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard is an additional provision of the Foster Parents' Bill of Rights. It is a required approach to normalizing decision-making about a child's safety, daily activities, and routine.



SAFETY



DAILY ACTIVITIES



ROUTINE

It recognizes that, like parents and guardians, foster parents are faced with making the same decisions about children's daily routines.



THINGS TO CONSIDER

- The child's age, maturity, and developmental level
- The potential risk factors and the appropriateness of the activity
- The importance of encouraging the child's emotional and developmental growth
- The importance of providing the child with the most family-like living experience
- The child's wishes (while not determinative, they should be considered)
- The child's behavioral history and the child's ability to safely participate in the activity
- Any special needs of the child and accommodations
- The opinions of the birth family on the activity (while not determinative, they should be considered)

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES



Community and family events



Camping/hiking



Sporting and swimming/water activities



Camps, field trips, youth organizations and school related activities



Dating and spending time with friends



Jobs or Internships



Internet or social media use



Obtaining a driver's permit or license



SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, OVERNIGHT STAYS AND TRAVEL

- Foster parents should inform the child's case management team and the foster care team in advance of any overnight stays or travel, along with travel details and locations being visited.
- All court orders for family visits must be followed. If there is an opportunity for the child to travel or do an activity that conflicts with a court ordered visit, the activity must be scheduled around the visitation or, if the court order allows it, the parties must agree to an alternative visitation schedule.



OTHER DECISIONS THAT ARE NOT COVERED BY THE REASONABLE AND PRUDENT PARENT DECISION-MAKING PROCESS



MEDICAL TREATMENT



EDUCATIONAL DECISIONS



RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES



DECISIONS RELATED TO GROOMING AND HAIR STYLE

Talk to the child's social worker if you have questions about medical treatment, educational decisions, religious activities, or decisions related to grooming and hair style.

These decisions are governed by other laws, regulations, and policies.

Biological or adoptive parents, Department of Children and Families (DCF) staff, attorneys, the courts, and/or youth themselves may have roles in these types of decisions.



HAVE QUESTIONS

The DCF team is there to support you in decision-making and finding opportunities for youth activities when needed.