



The Foster Parents' Bill of Rights outlines basic rights afforded to foster parents, rights regarding the provision of foster care, and rights regarding communication and information sharing between foster parents and the Department of Children and Families (DCF).



THE FOSTER PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS IS OFFICIALLY LAW!

UPDATES TO PRE-SERVICE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The new law specifies that the following topics be included in pre-service training for foster parents:

- Developmentally appropriate communication
- Positive discipline & guidance
- Federally-mandated pre-service and ongoing training

FOSTER PARENT RIGHTS

- To be treated with dignity and respect
- To be free from all forms of discrimination
- To be free from any retaliation for asserting the rights outlined in this new law
- To have information regarding the foster home be kept confidential

RIGHTS REGARDING THE PROVISION OF FOSTER CARE

- To receive pre-service training
- To accept and decline a placement and request the removal of a child from the foster home
- To be provided reasonable access to a social worker, foster care worker, and DCF's 24-hour emergency hotline
- To receive a copy of and the opportunity to discuss a child's DCF action plan
- To be consulted regarding planning of visitation with the child's birth family
- To be afforded a minimum of 10 days of paid respite care per year

- To file a grievance or request a fair hearing to review a decision made by DCF regarding a child in their foster home
- To request the content of their foster parent record
- To communicate with professionals for the purpose of supporting the child
- To request approval and support from DCF to connect with a child's previous foster home
- To make routine decisions about a child's daily activities, utilizing the reasonable and prudent parent standard



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RIGHTS REGARDING COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SHARING WITH DCF

- To receive available information about a child's health, education needs, and other relevant information, prior to placement
- To be informed of the range and frequency of payments a foster home is eligible to receive, including additional financial supports and services
- To receive adequate notice and an opportunity to actively participate in all meetings regarding a child in the foster parent's home
- To receive adequate notice of all court hearings
- To receive, to the extent possible, adequate notice when a child is to be removed from the foster home
- To be informed of the process and timelines for responding to allegations of abuse or neglect (51A) filed on behalf of a child in the foster home
- To seek approval from DCF to provide notes to assist future foster parents with the care and daily routine of the child