

Foster Parent Bill of Rights

Article I - Communication

Foster parents have the right to:

- Be informed of anything regarding the child that will impact the foster family home or family life during the care of the foster child
- Have information concerning the foster family kept confidential, except when release is required by law
- Receive accurate and best contact information of appropriate DCS staff – go to bit.ly/DCSlocaloffices
- Receive feedback on their role as a foster caregiver
- Be made aware of transition plans in a timely manner
- Receive timely notification of meetings and court hearings, as prescribed by policy and law, including any changes made to those proceedings
- Have all calls and/or emails returned by the family case manager within a timely manner

Article II - Safety and Privacy

Foster parents have the right to:

- Expect confidentiality regarding issues that arise in their foster family home (outside those disclosable as public records)
- Receive pertinent information about the child as it affects the safety of the foster family

Article III - Support

Foster parents have the right to:

- Receive assistance dealing with family loss and separation when a child leaves their home
- Receive a timely per diem to cover the reasonable costs of caring for a foster child – go to bit.ly/DCSfostercarerate
- Determine if the foster child is appropriate for their home
- Receive help and guidance
- Undergo training to enhance their skills and abilities as caregivers

Article IV - Collaboration

Foster parents have the right to:

- Offer input for their foster child's permanency plan
- Foster children without fear of discrimination based on race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental disability, or veteran status
- Voice their concerns and opinions without fear of retaliation
- Advocate for their foster child
- Be considered for placement or adoption when a previous foster child reenters care

Article V - Respect

Foster parents have the right to:

- Receive services that assist in the care of the child in their home through an open and timely response from agency personnel
- Be included as a valued member of the team
- Have their daily schedules respected
- Be treated with consideration, trust and respect

