



FOSTER CARE 101

MO CARE Pre-Service Training



TRAINING OUTCOMES

- ❑ Equip foster parents to effectively navigate the child welfare system by educating them on key terms and processes
- ❑ Empower foster parents to best meet the needs of their family and the children in their care through connection to resources
- ❑ Encourage foster parents by cultivating a foster care community where caregivers feel understood and supported



CHILDREN'S DIVISION OVERVIEW

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FREQUENTLY USED TERMS

- ❑ Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA)
- ❑ Case Goal/Permanency Plan
 - ❑ Reunification
 - ❑ APPLA
 - ❑ Guardianship
 - ❑ Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)/Adoption
- ❑ Case Plan
- ❑ Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)
- ❑ Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)
- ❑ Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

CHILDREN'S DIVISION WEBSITE

- ❑ [Child Welfare Manual](#)
- ❑ [Foster Connections Newsletter](#)
- ❑ ["I am a Foster Parent" Page](#)
- ❑ [E-forms](#)
- ❑ [Foster Parent Bill of Rights](#)
- ❑ [Foster Parent Handbook](#)

FREQUENTLY USED E-FORMS

- ❑ Court Caregiver Report
- ❑ Medical Log (CD-265)
- ❑ Foster Parent Travel Log
- ❑ Respite Provider Forms
- ❑ Mileage Reimbursement

FOSTER CARE BILL OF RIGHTS

- ❑ Best interest of the child is top priority
- ❑ Keep children with people they know
- ❑ Siblings placed together
- ❑ Plan development
- ❑ Children 12 years and older may attend hearings

CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT HOTLINE

- ❑ Overview of the hotline process
- ❑ Mandated reporter
- ❑ When to hotline
- ❑ What if I'm hotlined?

FOSTER PARENT ID CARDS

- ❑ Obtaining an ID card
- ❑ Getting a replacement ID card if lost or stolen
- ❑ What are ID cards used for?



TEAM MEMBERS

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TEAM ROLES

- CASA Volunteer
- Case Worker
- Case Worker Supervisor
- Foster Parent
- Guardian Ad Litem/Attorney for the child(ren)
- Family Visit Supervisor/Parent Aid/Designee
- Juvenile Officer
- Parent and Parent's attorney
- Therapist(s)

TEAM MEETINGS

- ❑ 72 Hour Meeting (preliminary plan and concurrent plan established)
- ❑ Typical flow of Family Support Team Meetings (FST)
 - ❑ 30-day (permanency plan and concurrent plan established)
 - ❑ 60-day (review of case progress)
 - ❑ 90-day (review of case progress)
 - ❑ 6-month (review of the case plan; possible change of plan)
 - ❑ 12-month (review of the case plan; possible change of plan)
 - ❑ 18-month (review of the case plan; possible change of plan)
- ❑ Placement Stability Meeting

WORKING COLLABORATIVELY ON A TEAM

- ❑ Be a good communicator through thoughtful and professional communication
- ❑ Remember that the team has a shared goal- the best interest of the child
- ❑ Respect others and their role
- ❑ Seek to understand different perspectives and points of view
- ❑ Be trustworthy, honest, and keep confidentiality
- ❑ Be consistent and reliable on following through with tasks and responsibilities

COURT

- ❑ Hearing Types
- ❑ Etiquette
- ❑ Expectations
- ❑ Caregiver Court Information Form



FOSTER PLACEMENTS

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PLACEMENT TYPES & LEVELS OF CARE

- ❑ Traditional
- ❑ Emergency
- ❑ Medical
- ❑ Elevated Needs Level A
- ❑ Elevated Needs Level B
- ❑ Treatment Foster Care (TFC)

PREPARING FOR PLACEMENT

- ❑ Locate services and proactively reach out about enrollment processes
 - ❑ Childcare
 - ❑ School district services (birth-12th grade)
 - ❑ Pediatrician
 - ❑ Possible others- therapists, medical clinics, hair care services
- ❑ Think through logistics of your target age group- list items that are necessary for immediate placement vs items you can arrange for after placement
 - ❑ Necessities- beds & bedding, car seat
 - ❑ Things you can easily pick up- clothes, shoes, snacks, diapers, baby wipes, baby bottles, stroller, hygiene products, school supplies, toys
- ❑ **Important Note: Prepare a plan to locate resources instead of trying to have everything on hand!**

FINDING PLACEMENT

- ❑ Preferred procedure for your county
- ❑ Regularly check in with your Licensing Worker
- ❑ Provide respite for other foster families
- ❑ Network with other foster families

PLACEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- ❑ Legal limits on the number and ages of children allowed in the home
- ❑ Family composition
- ❑ Lifestyle
- ❑ Logistics of your home (such as number of bedrooms) and vehicle size
- ❑ Work schedule
- ❑ Ability to enroll in child care (i.e. too young to enroll/newborns, extraordinary medical needs, no available child care options, non-traditional work shifts, etc)
- ❑ Cultural competency
- ❑ **Important Note: As your life seasons and circumstances change and you grow more confident in your parenting abilities, you can always make adjustments!**

QUESTIONS TO ASK DURING PLACEMENT

- ❑ What is this child's basic information- name, birth date, gender, race?
- ❑ Why is this child being placed?
- ❑ Why and when was this child brought into care?
- ❑ Has this child been placed before? Can we contact the previous provider?
- ❑ Is it possible to do a pre-placement visit?
- ❑ What is the family situation- parents, siblings, extended family? Where are they?
- ❑ What community are they from? Where did this child attend school/preschool?
- ❑ Does this child have any special medical or dietary needs?
- ❑ Does this child have any known behaviors?
- ❑ Are there any precautions which should be taken regarding the safety of the child?

I HAVE PLACEMENT, NOW WHAT?

- ❑ Short Term “To Do” List
 - ❑ Obtain placement letter and Medicaid authorization
 - ❑ Introduce yourself to the team and exchange contact information
 - ❑ Initial health exam within 24 hours
 - ❑ Full screening within 30 days
 - ❑ Enroll in school, if appropriate, ideally within a week
 - ❑ Enroll in WIC Program, if under 5 years old
 - ❑ Discuss clothing voucher with Case Manager

- ❑ Long Term “To Do” List
 - ❑ Regular wellness doctor exams
 - ❑ Dentist visits
 - ❑ Eye exam
 - ❑ Situational possibilities: First Steps evaluation, psychological evaluation
 - ❑ Maintain a memory box and/or Life Book

FAMILY VISITS

- ❑ Frequency
- ❑ Community vs. in-home
- ❑ Tips to prepare children
- ❑ After the visit

APPROVAL NEEDED

- ❑ Non routine medical care
- ❑ Medications
- ❑ Body piercings & tattoos
- ❑ Some travel (out of State)
- ❑ Alternate caregiver over 24 hours

NOTIFICATION REQUIRED

- ❑ Immediately for emergency situations
 - ❑ Serious illness or injury requiring medical treatment
 - ❑ Unauthorized absence from the home
 - ❑ Other situations- utilize sound judgment
 - ❑ **Important Note: Always take action first- such as seeking emergency medical care- your top priority is to secure the child's safety!**
- ❑ Within 2 hours for missing foster placement
 - ❑ Also notify local law enforcement agency and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- ❑ Within 2 weeks for pertinent conditions, problems, or family changes
- ❑ Within 60 days (of case worker's inquiry) for desire to adopt

PLACEMENT DISRUPTION

- ❑ Develop a proactive strategy to avoid disruption by regularly and openly discussing concerns with the team so it doesn't become a crisis situation
- ❑ Advocate for supports to stabilize placement
- ❑ Seek assistance of a trusted mentor and/or advocate
- ❑ Request additional formal behavioral or medical training or utilize informal training, such as podcasts, webinars and books
- ❑ If unable to develop a plan to meet the child's needs, and disruption must occur, provide a written two week notice (except emergency situations)



FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT

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MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS

- ❑ Amounts
- ❑ Payment method- paper check or direct deposit (form CD-122)
- ❑ Payment dates and frequency
- ❑ Who to contact if you have payment issues- missing payment, over or under payment

OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORTS

- ❑ Show Me Healthy Kids Managed Care Health Plan
- ❑ Clothing Allowance
- ❑ Infant Allowance
- ❑ Mileage Reimbursement
- ❑ Childcare through authorized provider
- ❑ Free lunches for school-aged children
- ❑ WIC for children under 5 years old

LICENSING WORKER

- ❑ Quarterly in-home visits
- ❑ Approve and counsel on appropriate placements
- ❑ Track license renewal progress (renewal every 2 years)
- ❑ Write home study/updates
- ❑ Support in times of crisis
- ❑ Provide referrals for community resources

TRAINING

- ❑ 30 hours of approved training required for re-licensure (2 year period)
- ❑ Mandatory and optional
- ❑ Training requirements for above level care placements and adoption
- ❑ Training hours reported to Licensing Worker
- ❑ Children's Division website
- ❑ Training calendars through Family Resource Centers

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

- ❑ Provide support, services, and resources to foster, adoptive, relative, and guardianship children and their families
 - ❑ Public Information
 - ❑ Training
 - ❑ Peer Support Groups
 - ❑ Social and Community Activities
 - ❑ Financial or Material Supports
 - ❑ Respite Care
 - ❑ Advocacy, Navigation, and Support
 - ❑ In-home Therapeutic Services

- ❑ Locating your Family Resource Center

OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES

- ❑ Local foster parent support organizations
- ❑ Clothing closets
- ❑ Seasonal donation drives (ie. Back to School, Christmas)
- ❑ Local discounts
- ❑ Facebook communities- national, state-wide, local, hyper-local, special interest groups, faith-based groups
- ❑ Childcare Aware website

NAVIGATING THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

- ❑ Consent
- ❑ Enrollment & Best Interest Determination
- ❑ School District Educational Liaison for children in foster care
- ❑ MPACT
- ❑ Advocate through Family Resource Centers

FOSTER PARENT AMBASSADORS

- ❑ Ambassadors Program
 - ❑ Recruitment
 - ❑ Support foster families through mentoring and self-advocacy
 - ❑ Representation of foster parents in work groups

- ❑ How to get a mentor

RESPITE

- ❑ Respite vs Babysitting
- ❑ Units
- ❑ Timeframes
- ❑ Choosing a Respite Provider
- ❑ Forms

SELF CARE

- ❑ Build a community of supportive people who understand what you're going through
- ❑ Ask for help
- ❑ Take care of your mental and physical health
- ❑ Don't abandon the activities and interests that replenish you
- ❑ Take regular breaks- make appointments for "me" time



EXPERT PANEL

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WRAP UP

- ❑ Final questions
- ❑ Facilitator's contact info



REMEMBER YOUR WHY

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