



## **STATEMENT OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FOSTER PARENTS AND CHILD PLACING AGENCIES**

**Purpose:** This form ensures that foster parents and staff have read and understood their rights and responsibilities.

**Directions:** Once a foster home is verified, both the foster parents and the Foster and Adoptive Home Development (FAD) worker sign this form. The foster parents retain a copy for their records. The FAD worker places the original in the case file retained by the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS).

### **STATEMENT OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Foster parents have the right to be treated with dignity, respect, and consideration as a member of the service planning team.
2. Foster parents have the right and responsibility to participate in service planning and in the implementation of the service plan.
3. Foster parents have the right and responsibility to obtain training that will assist them in meeting the needs of children placed in their home.
4. The child-placing agency has the responsibility to assist foster parents in identifying training that will enhance the foster parent's ability to meet the needs of children placed in their home.
5. Foster parents and the child-placing agency have the responsibility to communicate with each other in a timely and effective manner.
6. Foster parents have the right to be reimbursed in a timely manner for the care of the children placed in their home and to be reimbursed according to the child-placing agency's policy.
7. The child-placing agency has the responsibility to provide relevant information about a child to the foster parents when placing or considering placing the child.
8. Foster parents have the right and responsibility to obtain information and ask questions about children the child-placing agency would like to place in their home, including requesting a pre-placement visit.
9. Foster parents have the right to know how much discretion they have in declining specific placements without fear of negative repercussions.
10. The child-placing agency has the responsibility to provide support to all of their foster parents and inform them of any services available to foster parents.
11. Foster parents have the responsibility to report to the child-placing agency and Residential Child Care Licensing information, as required by the child-placing agency's policies and the Minimum Standards for Child-Placing Agencies.
12. Foster parents have the right to appeal child-placing agency's actions and decisions that affect them and to know the procedures for making an appeal.
13. Foster parents have the responsibility to comply with the Minimum Standards for Child-Placing Agencies, as applicable.
14. The child-placing agency has the responsibility to provide foster parents with support, training, and oversight in order to ensure that the foster parents are in compliance, as applicable, with the Minimum Standards for Child-Placing Agencies.
15. Foster parents have the right to review their foster home record maintained by the child-placing agency.

If you have a concern or a complaint, we encourage you to talk with your home worker or the worker's supervisor. If you are still unsatisfied, you may contact the director of the Foster Care and Adoption Program.

If further assistance is required, the Office of Consumer Affairs acts as a neutral party in reviewing complaints regarding the case-specific activities of the DFPS program areas. If you believe that a DFPS program area has not acted appropriately in a situation involving you, you have a right to complain and to be treated fairly and with dignity. The Office of Consumer Affairs also handles inquiries about open DFPS cases.

Contact the Office of Consumer Affairs by:

- Phone: 1-800-720-7777, Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Online: Fill out the online form (provided in English or Spanish) at:  
[https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact\\_Us/Inquiries\\_and\\_Complaints/](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/Inquiries_and_Complaints/)
- Email: [oca@dfps.state.tx.us](mailto:oca@dfps.state.tx.us)
- Fax: Fill out the online form, print it, and fax it to (512) 339-5892.

#### SIGNATURES

Foster Parent:  X	Date Signed:
Foster Parent:  X	Date Signed:
FAD Worker:  X	Date Signed: