

POLICY REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN HUMAN RESEARCH PROJECTS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES

Families in Trumbull County rely upon the principle of confidentiality when they approach the Children Services Agency for help. In order to preserve this trust, the Agency takes steps to prevent the unauthorized dissemination of confidential information regarding case situations, including those children placed in substitute care (the Children's Center, Secure Care and foster care, etc.). So as not to reveal one's identity, a child in the custody of Trumbull County Children Services is not to participate in publicity or fund-raising efforts or in any research project.

Since the residential units and foster homes are funded through levy-generated monies, there is no need for fund-raising efforts to maintain operations. On occasion, residents at the Children's Center and Secure Care facility, may wish to participate in a group project to supplement a planned special activity. Such efforts have included bake sales, raffles, craft sales and luncheons for outings such as camping trips, sight-seeing excursions and visits to amusement parks. During such activities, staff are instructed to maintain the confidentiality and protect the identity of those in custody of Trumbull County Children Services.

Should there be reason to compromise or violate any issues of confidentiality, there must be prior, written, informed consent given by the child's parent, guardian or legal custodian and the child. This consent will be kept in the child's case record.

In the event that media personnel desire to photograph Agency children at a public outing, staff and foster caregivers are instructed to alert reporters about the issues of confidentiality. If pictures are taken, they must be photographed in such a way that the child or children are unrecognizable and that no names are given that would identify the child or children as being in the custody of Children Services.

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