

CARE, SUPERVISION, AND DISCIPLINE POLICY FOR TRUMBULL COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES FOSTER PARENTS

The Trumbull County Children Services foster care policy and the State foster care rules prohibit the use of any type of physical punishment and/or practices with foster children. More than just being a rule, this Agency believes that physical punishment and/or practices are not an appropriate type of discipline for our foster children. All children, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, color or national origin, shall at all times be treated with kindness, consistency and respect. Discipline is seen as an effort to teach a foster child self control and appropriate behavior, so the child can get along as a member of a family and the community, and eventually be a responsible, mature adult.

As a foster caregiver with Trumbull County Children Services, the following rules as specified in Chapter 5101:2-7-09 of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Family Foster Home Rules must be adhered to in regard to the care, supervision and discipline of foster children:

- A. A foster caregiver shall treat each foster child with kindness, consistency, and respect.
- B. A foster caregiver shall not discriminate in providing care and supervision to foster children on the basis of race, sex, gender, sexual identity, sexual orientation, religion, color or national origin.
- C. A foster caregiver shall provide humane, instructive discipline appropriate to the age and functioning level of a foster child.
 1. Disciplinary methods shall stress praise and encouragement for desired behavior rather than punishment.
 2. All rules and expectations made by a foster caregiver shall be explained to a foster child in a manner appropriate to the child's age and understanding during the child's initial orientation and prior to any disciplinary action for violations of such rules.
 3. A foster child shall not be punished for actions over which the child has no control.
 4. A foster child shall not be punished for bed-wetting or in the course of toilet training activities.
- D. A foster caregiver shall not subject a foster child to verbal abuse or swearing; to derogatory remarks about foster children, and their families, races, sex, **gender, sexual identity, sexual orientation**, religion, color or national origin; or to threats of physical violence or removal from the foster home.
- E. A foster caregiver shall not use any of the following practices for a foster child:
 1. Physical hitting or any type of physical punishment inflicted in any manner upon the body **including but not limited to spitting**, spanking, paddling, punching, shaking, biting, hair pulling, pinching, or rough handling.

2. Physically strenuous work or exercises, when used as a means of punishment.
 3. Requiring or forcing a foster child to take an uncomfortable position, such as squatting or bending, or requiring a foster child to repeat physical movements when used as a means of punishment.
 4. Denial of social or recreational activities, for excessive or prolonged periods- not beyond 7 days without approval of the Senior Supervisor or his/her designee.
 5. Denial of social or casework services, medical treatment, or educational services.
 6. Deprivation of meals.
 7. Denial of visitation or communication rights with the family of the foster child as a means of punishment.
 8. Denial of sleep.
 9. Denial of shelter, clothing, bedding or restroom facilities.
- F. Physical restraining may not be used by any foster caregiver. Physical restraint may cause harm to a child if not properly done. Special training is required for physical restraint, for it to be safe and effective. In that our foster families are not trained in physical restraint, the use of physical restraint is prohibited.
- G. A foster caregiver shall not use any device to prevent or restrict movement as punishment or for the foster parent's convenience.
- H. A foster caregiver shall not use any form of chemical or mechanical restraint on a foster child.
- I. Any act of omission or commission by a foster caregiver or other member of the household which results in the death, injury, illness, abuse, neglect or exploitation of a foster child shall be grounds for the denial and/or immediate revocation of a foster home certificate. Any recommendation to revoke the certificate of a foster caregiver may be made by the recommending agency supervising a foster home or the Ohio Department of Job and Family services.
- J. Concerning the hygiene needs of a foster child, the foster caregiver shall:
1. Ensure that:
 - a. Each foster child's clothing and footwear shall be clean, well-fitting, seasonal and appropriate to the child's age and sex.
 - b. Each foster child capable of meeting their own personal hygiene needs shall be provided with adequate personal toiletry supplies appropriate to the child's age, sex, gender, sexual identity, sexual orientation, race and national origin.
 2. Provide each foster child instruction on good habits of personal care, hygiene, and grooming appropriate to the child's age, sex, **gender, sexual identity, sexual orientation**, race, national origin and need for training.

PLEASE NOTE:

A copy of Chapter 5101:2-7 of Ohio Administrative Code is given as a hand-out to all pre-service participants at the training session where it is reviewed. This handout is also given to all licensed foster parents at the time of recertification.

A copy of the Discipline Policy for TCCSB Foster Parents is given as a separate hand-out with a signature line to assure that all foster families are aware of and agree to comply with the requirements for foster children's care, supervision and discipline.

I/WE, THE UNDERSIGNED AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE RULES.

SIGNED _____

DATE: _____

SIGNED _____

DATE: _____

WITNESS: _____

DATE: _____

Effective	February 2004	PJJ/RAS
Revised	December 11, 2006	PJJ/rmt
Revised	January 11, 2008	CLM/PJJ
Revised	August 1, 2009	CLM
Revised	July 1, 2014	RM
Reviewed	December 1, 2019	MMM