

## Resource Family Bill of Rights

Being a foster caregiver and caring for another person's child on a 24-hour-per day basis brings with it a set of rights and responsibilities that are different from, and in addition to, any parenting rights and responsibilities that you might have experienced before. Prior to initial certification, all Trumbull County Children Services foster caregivers are informed of their rights and responsibilities as a foster caregiver. They are also provided with Trumbull County Children Services' foster caregiver manual which contains all agency foster care policies. Trumbull County Children Services respects the rights of its foster caregivers, which are inclusive of:

1. The right to be treated with dignity and respect as the resource family providing the day-to-day care for children in the children services system.
2. The right to be free of discrimination including race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, national origin (ancestry), military status (past, present or future), disability, age (forty years or older), genetic information, or sexual orientation.
3. The right to receive training from either the recommending agency or the training designee and support from the recommending and custodial agencies to strengthen resource parenting skills and meet the needs of children in their care.
4. The right to review the home study information that is not deemed confidential by the recommending agency.
5. The right to receive clear expectations that relate to their role as a resource caregiver in partnership with the child in foster care, the child's family, and with all other team members.
6. The right to access a staff person representing the recommending or custodial agency inside and outside of normal business hours.
7. The right to be informed of all known information about a child placed in their care pursuant to rule [5101:2-42-90](#) of the Administrative Code including information that may impact the health, safety, and well-being of any member of the resource family and community.
8. The right to receive notification prior to court hearings and scheduled meetings concerning a child in their care and to be encouraged to share information during those opportunities.

9. The right to receive training on the reasonable and prudent parent standard and, once trained, to act as the reasonable and prudent parent in making decisions for children placed in their care to participate in normal childhood activities that still maintain their health and safety.
10. The right to actively work with the agency toward the permanency goal identified in the family case plan (e.g., reunification) and to support supplemental planning as established in rule [5101:2-38-05](#) of the Administrative Code, and participate in treatment planning (including independent living skills for children fourteen and older) for children in their care.
11. The right to be informed of the processes available to submit grievances and/or complaints including with regards to these rights and to make their concerns known without fear of reprisal.
12. The right to be informed of the process when a resource caregiver is investigated based on an allegation of maltreatment and points of contact, and what to anticipate as a person who is under investigation. The resource family has the right to be informed what supports and resources are available to them during the process and how the outcome may affect their relationship with the recommending and/or custodial agency

It is the expectation of Trumbull County Children Services that all of the Agency's licensed foster caregivers will follow all Agency foster care policies. Nothing outlined in the beforementioned foster caregiver rights supersedes the requirement for foster caregivers to follow agency policies. Additionally, should the foster caregiver rights outlined in this policy conflict with the rights of a youth in foster care, which are outlined in the "Policy on Assurance of Children's Civil Rights" that can be referenced in this manual, the rights of the youth will preempt the rights of the foster caregiver.

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