

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Services	Effective Date: July 1, 2016
	Section 16: Resource Parent(s) Role	Version: 4

STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will require the resource parent(s) to:

1. Participate in supporting the [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) goals;
2. Participate in supporting Concurrent Planning for permanency. See policy [5.15 Concurrent Planning](#);
3. Provide a positive and nurturing environment for the child;
4. Provide for the child's basic needs (e.g., food, clothing, and shelter). See policy, [16.1 Clothing, Personal Items, and Permitted Per Diem Expenses](#);
5. Maintain discretion when sharing information regarding the child and the child's family;
6. Encourage and support the maximum amount of interaction between the parent, guardian, or custodian and the child, with consideration given to:
 - a. The child's comfort level;
 - b. Safety concerns; and
 - c. The needs of the child.
7. Refrain from speaking negatively about any member of the child's family or other persons with whom the child has a significant relationship;
8. Provide a safe and nurturing atmosphere for the child to express feelings about his or her situation (e.g., feelings regarding the initial separation, abuse or neglect suffered, reunification (if applicable), visitation, etc.);
9. Maintain a neutral attitude when discussing visitation or other parent, guardian, or custodian interaction with the child;
10. Participate as a member of the Child and Family Team (CFT). See policy [5.7 Family Team Meetings](#);
11. Participate in court hearings when notified;
12. Keep the child's [Medical Passport \(DCS Pamphlet 036\)](#) current with the child's most recent health care information. See policy [8.27 Maintaining Health Records – Medical Passport](#);
13. Encourage all youth age 14 and older to attend scheduled court hearings;
14. Use the [Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard](#) when determining whether a child should participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities; and
15. Provide notification to DCS when there is a change in household members. See policies [12.12 Foster Family Home Capacity](#) and [13.9 Conducting Background Checks for Foster Family Home Licensing](#) for additional guidance.

Note: A foster family home may not provide overnight or regular and continuous care and supervision to a child who is the subject of a power of attorney while providing care to a child placed in the home by DCS or probation, without an exception.

DCS will ensure that a child placed in out-of-home care has an opportunity to complete a Lifebook. DCS will assist in this process by providing the child and/or resource parent(s) with

any pertinent family history and pictures, if available, of the child, the child's family, and any other places and/or significant individuals that are important to the child.

Code References

N/A

LEGAL REFERENCES

N/A

PROCEDURE

Regarding the resource parent(s) role, the Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Review and discuss the above policy statement with the resource parent(s); and
2. Provide the resource parent(s) with one copy of the [Resource Parent Role Acknowledgement \(SF54642\)](#) form and place the original signed signature page in the case file.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

Definitions

Resource Parent

A Resource Parent includes a foster/adoptive parent, foster parent, and relative or kinship caregiver.

Forms and Tools

- [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) – Available in the case management system
- [Medical Passport \(DCS Pamphlet 036\)](#)
- [Resource Parent Role Acknowledgement \(SF54642\)](#)
- [8.F Tool: Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard](#)

Related Policies

- [5.07 Child and Family Team Meetings](#)

Supporting the Child's Positive Identification with His or Her Family of Origin

One of the most important resource parent roles is to support the child's positive identification and positive relationship with the child's family of origin. This is true regardless of the amount of parent, guardian, or custodian interaction and involvement prescribed by the [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) and [Visitation Plan](#). A child identifying with his or her family is very important regardless of the permanency goal. The relationship between the child and his or her family has a long-term effect on the child's self-esteem and future emotional well-being. See policy [8.11 Parental Interaction and Involvement](#) for a detailed matrix that describes the levels of interaction between children and their parent, guardian, or custodian, and the corresponding levels of involvement that the parent, guardian, or custodian will have in their child's life.

Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard

A caregiver must use the [Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard](#) when determining whether to allow a child in foster care, under the responsibility of the state, to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, social, and cultural activities. The [Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard](#) is characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain a child's health, safety, and best interests, while at the same time, encouraging the child's emotional and developmental growth.

Archived v4 5/31/21