CAREGIVER CHILD SAFETY AGREEMENT

Instructions: Review the information on each topic with the primary and secondary caregiver, as applicable. Include in the discussion any supporting information from the foster parent manual. Have each caregiver initial each discussion area and sign the form.

Date of Review: _____ Agency/Department Representative: _____

Purpose: ☐ Initial Approval /Placement ☐ Re-Evaluation ☐ Corrective Action Plan ☐ Other_____

	Caregiver(s) Initials
Foster Parent Manual—The Foster Parent Manual is your guide to understanding safety, supervision and service expectations of caregivers. Standards of care for children in foster care are stringent due to the uniqueness of the situation. Caregivers must abide by the information in the Foster Parent Manual. Your agency /department should have provided you with a copy of the Foster Parent Manual. It can also be accessed at _____ ***To ensure the safety and well-being of the children placed in (my/our) home, (I/we) agree to the following:*** • Review and abide by the information in the Foster Parent Manual	
Household Composition/ Significant Events—Your home's approval has been based on the current household information and the safety screens of the current household members listed below. **List Household Members:** **To ensure the safety and well-being of the children placed in (my/our) home, (I/we) agree to the following report any of the following to the agency/department within one (1) business day of occurrence:** • Report any additions to the household (regular resident or re-occurring overnight resident) ; • Report any 911 calls from the residence ; • Report if law enforcement or the fire/EMS department is dispatched to the residence ; • Report any arrests, convictions or other law enforcement involvement with any household member; and • Report any other such significant event.	
Corporal Punishment- DFCS policy prohibits the use of corporal or unusual punishment on a child in its custody. Children removed from their parents or other caretakers due to neglect or abuse must be disciplined in ways that do no perpetuate the physical and emotional pain experienced as a result of past inappropriate parenting practices. ***To ensure the safety and well-being of the children placed in (my/our) home, (I/we) agree to the following:*** • To refrain from the use of any corporal or unusual punishment on a child placed in (my/our) home, including, but not limited to the following: spanking, slapping, switching, shaking, pinching, biting, twisting, or pulling; tying with rope, withholding food, force feeding, denying mail; denying appropriate contacts with family, denying contact with worker; degrading child or child's family, or humiliating child; creating fear, anger and anxiety, locking child in a room, closet or outside the home; group punishment or delegating older children to administer punishment; destroying the child's property and any other practices which may physically or emotionally damage the child**.** • When managing children's behavior, use the suggested alternative methods (or other effective means of discipline) from the Foster Parent Manual and in consultation with the agency / department. • Seek on-going information/training to build and enhance (my/our) child behavioral management skills. • Immediately inform the agency / department of the need for assistance in managing the behavior of any child placed in (my/our) home. • Carefully review and abide by the information on discipline and behavior management in the Foster Parent Manual	
Supervision of Children- Caregivers must provide safe, responsible and appropriate supervision of children at all times. ***Names of Approved Substitute Caregivers:*** ***In keeping with this requirement, (I/we) agree to adhere to the following:*** • Provide appropriate adult supervision for the children in my care at all times; • Ensure that any substitute caregivers are approved in advance by the agency/ department. • Ensure that children are not placed under the care or supervision of anyone under the age of 18 years. • Ensure that children are not left unattended in a motor vehicle. • Obtain approval from the agency prior to leaving older children unsupervised. These youth must have a Graduated Independence Plan (GIP) before being left unsupervised. • Carefully review and abide by the information on safe supervision in the Foster Parent Manual	
Firearm Safety-Caregivers must ensure that children placed do not handle or have access to firearms. Caregivers must take precautions to ensure that preventable injury or death from firearms does not occur. ***# of Firearms in the home _____ Location of Firearms _____*** ***In keeping with this requirement, (I/we) agree to adhere to the following:*** • Inform DFCS of the presence of firearms in (my/our) home, now or at any time in the future. • Secure all firearms in the home, using a commercially available safety lock designed for this purpose, or in a storage cabinet that securely locks. • Keep all firearms unloaded; store firearms and ammunition separately.	

• Never allow children placed in the home to handle guns. • Carefully review and abide by the information on gun safety in the Foster Parent Manual	
Motor Vehicle and Bicycle Safety- According to national statistics, motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death for children ages 5-14. Caregivers must take precautions to ensure the safety of children in motor vehicles including following all state laws dictating car seat use and restrictions regarding children riding in the front seat. ***Children must wear helmets while bicycling.*** ***In keeping with this requirement, (I/we) agree to adhere to the following:*** • Secure children under age 8 in a federally approved child safety restraint seat, that is properly installed according to the manufacturer's instructions. • Secure children under 8 years of age in the rear seat of the vehicle with federally approved and properly installed safety seat belts. • Ensure that children/youth under 18 years do not ride in the bed of a pickup truck at any time. • Obtain permission from the agency /department prior to allowing a child to ride as a passenger or driver on any of the following: automobile (as driver only); motorcycle; motorbike; all-terrain vehicles; small, high-speed water craft and other similarly motorized vehicles. • Ensure that children wear a properly fitted helmet while bicycling or engaged in other approved motor vehicle activities where a helmet is indicated (all-terrain vehicles, for example). • Carefully review and abide by the information on motor vehicle safety in the Foster Parent Manual	
****Water Safety- Children are at high risk for accidental drowning. Foster parents whose residence is equipped with an in-ground /above ground swimming pool are required to take extra safety precautions with children placed in their care.*** ***Does the caregiver have an in-ground/above ground pool?*** ☐ *Yes* ☐ *No* **In keeping with this requirement (for homes with in-ground/above ground pools) , (I/we) agree to adhere to the following:** • Know or learn how to swim • Hold a current certificate in CPR/First Aid. • Obtain a certificate in Basic Water Rescue. • Enroll all children 3 years of age and older placed in the home in a swimming class taught by a certified instructor. • Foster Parent or an approved caretaker must provide direct supervision of children when around bodies of water (does not include lifeguards and pool personnel). • Ensure the compliance with any local or state ordinances regarding pools or waterfront property. • Secure the entire perimeter of the pool area with a fence and locked gate of sufficient height to prevent the entry of young children. • Complete all water safety requirements within one (1) year of the child's placement in the home. • Carefully review and abide by the information on water safety in the Foster Parent Manual. **In keeping with this requirement (for homes without in-ground/above ground pools) , (I/we) agree to adhere to the following:** • Inform DFCS immediately prior to adding an in-ground/above ground swimming pool. **** Note: Homes with ponds, or homes located on waterfront property, are required to employ substantive safety measures to ensure the protection of children in the home.***	
Environmental and Animal Safety-Caregivers must ensure that the home environment (inside and outside) is clean, free of environmental hazards and provides a comfortable, livable atmosphere. Household pets may not be dangerous or aggressive; exotic pets (snakes, wide life, etc.) require special approval. Additionally, caregivers must protect children from secondhand smoke (SHS). Smoke-free homes and cars provide the best protection against SHS for children. SHS can worsen asthma and increase the risk of bronchitis, lung and ear infections in children. **In keeping with this requirement , (I/we) agree to adhere to the following:** • Maintain our home environment (inside and outside) to ensure that it is clean, free of environmental hazards and provides a comfortable, livable atmosphere. • Provide close supervision of children when around animals. • Properly secure animals as necessary with a leash, fence or cage, etc. • Notify agency /department immediately of any dog /pet attacks or bites sustained by a child placed in your home. • Take necessary precautions to protect children from SHS particularly those with medical conditions that can be worsened by exposure to SHS. • Carefully review and abide by the information on animal and environmental safety in the Foster Parent Manual.	

Attestation: *By signing below, you are acknowledging that the agency/department representative has reviewed the safety information with you and that you agree to follow the expectations as discussed.*

_____ /_____ _____ /_____
Primary Caregiver Date Secondary Caregiver Date

_____ /_____
Agency/ Department Representative Date