Caregiver Child Safety Agreement

Date of Review: _____ Agency/Department Representative: _____

Purpose: ☐ Initial Approval /Placement ☐ Re-Evaluation ☐ Other: _____

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 here.

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*

Primary Caregiver's initials here: ☐

Secondary Caregiver's initials here: ☐

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.

Primary Caregiver's initials here:

Secondary Caregiver's initials here:

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. Caregiver Child Safety Agreement (Rev 04/17).

Primary Caregiver's initials here:

Secondary Caregiver's initials here:

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.
- Provide appropriate adult supervision for the children in my care at all times.
- Ensure that children are not placed under the care or supervision of anyone under the age of 18 years.

continued

Primary Caregiver's initials here:

Secondary Caregiver's initials here:

Supervision of Children—*continued*

- Ensure that children are not left unattended in a motor vehicle.
- Obtain approval from the agency prior to leaving older children unsupervised.
- Carefully review and abide by the information on safe supervision in the Foster Parent Manual.
- We agree that we will not use any illegal substances, abuse alcohol by consuming it in excess amounts, or abuse legal prescription and/or nonprescription drugs by consuming them in excess amounts or using them contrary to as indicated.

Primary Caregiver's initials here:

Secondary Caregiver's initials here:

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.
- 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.

Primary Caregiver's initials here:

Secondary Caregiver's initials here:

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 all children in federally approved and properly installed safety seat belts.
- Ensure that children 12 years of age are under are transported in the rear seat of the vehicle to protect them from air bag injuries.
- 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.

Primary Caregiver's initials here:

Secondary Caregiver's initials here:

Water Safety—*Children are at high risk for accidental drowning. Foster parents whose residence is equipped with an in-ground /above ground swimming pool, or who live on a waterfront property, 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***

Does the caregiver live on a waterfront property? ☐ ***Yes*** ☐ ***No***

In keeping with this requirement, (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).

continued

Primary Caregiver's initials here:

Secondary Caregiver's initials here:

Water Safety—continued

In keeping with this requirement, (I/we) agree to adhere to the following:

- 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.
- Inform DFCS immediately prior to adding an in-ground/above ground swimming pool.

Primary Caregiver's initials here:

Secondary Caregiver's initials here:

Motor Vehicle "Hot Car" Safety

Children are sensitive to heat as their body temperature can heat up three to five times faster than an adult's. Children will die if their body temperature exceeds 107 degrees. Even at a temperature of 60 degrees outdoors, the temperature inside a car can exceed 110 degrees. At initial placement caregivers should be reminded of motor vehicle safety as it pertains to hot cars and steps they can take to avoid related serious injury or death. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recommends the following precautions to take in order to avoid child heatstroke.

In keeping with this requirement, (I/we) agree to adhere to the following:

- Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle – even if the windows are partially open or the engine is running and the air conditioning is on.
- Make a habit of looking in the vehicle–front and back– before locking the door and walking away.
- Ask the childcare provider to call if the child doesn't show up for care as expected.
- Do things that serve as a reminder that a child is in the vehicle, such as placing a phone, purse or briefcase in the back seat to ensure no child is accidentally left in the vehicle, or writing a note or using a stuffed animal placed in the driver's view to indicate a child is in the car seat.
- Always lock your vehicle when not in use and store keys out of a child's reach, so children cannot enter unattended. Teach children that a vehicle is not a play area.
- A child in distress due to heat should be removed from the vehicle as quickly as possible and rapidly cooled.

Primary Caregiver's initials here:

Secondary Caregiver's initials here:

Safe to Sleep for Babies

Caregivers of infants ages 0-12 months old must be informed of conditions that constitute a safe sleeping environment and that reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), also known as "crib death".

At minimum, caregivers should practice the three primary safe sleep recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) commonly referred to as the 'ABC's' of safe sleep.

In keeping with this requirement, (I/we) agree to adhere to the following:

- **A**lone – Ensure the baby's sleep area should be close to, but separate from, where caregivers and others sleep. The sleep area should be free of soft objects, toys, and loose bedding.
- **B**ack – Ensure that infants are always placed on their back to sleep for naps and at night.
- **C**rib – Ensure to place infants on a firm sleep surface, such as on a safety approved crib mattress, covered by a fitted sheet. Ensure that the child's sleep area contains no blankets, quilts, crib bumpers, or toys.

Primary Caregiver's initials here:

Secondary Caregiver's initials here:

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, wild 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.
- I/We, and any visiting guests, will not smoke in the family foster home, in any vehicle used to transport the child, or in the presence of the child in foster care.
- 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.

Primary Caregiver's initials here:

Secondary Caregiver's initials here:

Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standards—*Caregivers shall apply the reasonable and prudent parenting standard when determining whether to allow a child in foster care to participate in particular extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities.*

In keeping with this requirement, (I/we) agree to adhere to the following:

- Make reasonable and prudent parenting decisions regarding the day-to-day care of children placed under their care and oversight.
- Engage the child/youth's birth parents in decision making regarding the types of activities they desire the child to participate.
- Notify DFCS/CPA prior to the occurrence of a child participating in overnight trips exceeding two nights.
- Provide a summary of the activities the child has participated in to the child's assigned case manager at each visit.

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 Signature: _____ Date: _____

Secondary Caregiver Signature: _____ Date: _____

Agency/Department Representative Signature: _____ Date: _____