



## Safety and Quality Standards Acknowledgment

Primary Caregiver Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Caregiver Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*By signing below you are acknowledging that you have reviewed and understand the Safety and Quality Standards. Review the SQS and sign and date the attestation.*

To attain and maintain Full Approval Status, prospective foster and adoptive parents must:

- a. Demonstrate the maturity, stability, fitness, skills and competency to successfully protect, nurture, and meet the developmental needs of children;
- b. Support the agency’s established case goals and permanency plan for child(ren) placed in their care;
- c. Meet the citizenship requirement;
- d. Be at least 21 years of age. Relative/kin caregivers must be at least 18 years old;
- e. Have no substantiated Child Protective Services (CPS) history. Be able to communicate with the child, DFCS/CPA, health care providers, and other service providers. At least one caregiver in the home must have functional literacy, such as having the ability to read medication labels;
- f. A background check is conducted on all prospective foster or adoptive parents. Approval will not be granted for any felony conviction with in the last five years to include:
  - i. Physical assault;
  - ii. Battery; or
  - iii. A drug or alcohol related offense.

The non-negotiable convictions include felonies involving:

- i. Child abuse or neglect;
- ii. Spousal abuse;
- iii. A crime against a child or children (including child pornography); or
- iv. A crime involving violence, including rape, sexual assault, or homicide (but not including other physical assault or battery).
- g. Abstain from the use of illegal drugs and misuse of prescription drugs and alcohol;
- h. Have sufficient income to maintain their family excluding the amount of the per diem received for any child(ren) in foster care;

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- i. Meet health requirements for all household members;
  - i. All children who are household members must be up-to-date on immunizations unless they are contrary to the child's health as documented by a licensed health care professional.
  - ii. All household members who will be caregivers of infants must have an up-to-date pertussis (whooping cough) vaccination unless the immunization is contrary to the individual's health as documented by a licensed health care professional.
  - iii. All household members who will be caregivers of infants and children with special medical needs must have an up-to-date annual influenza vaccination unless the immunization is contrary to the individual's health as documented by a licensed health care professional.
- j. Be certified in CPR and First Aid;
- k. Have at least three (3) personal character references;
- l. Complete an IMPACT Information Session;
- m. Complete approved pre-service training;
- n. Meet the requirement for Continued Parent Development (CPD);
- o. Have reliable, legal and safe transportation (includes a properly maintained vehicle or access to public transportation);
  - i. Any privately-owned vehicle (owned by caregiver, caregiver's family, or friends) used to transport a child in foster care must be operated by someone with a valid driver's license, insurance, and registration;
  - ii. Safety restraints (as appropriate for the child in accordance with the law) must be used when transporting a child in foster care.
- p. Have a home environment that is clean, free of environmental hazards, and provides a livable atmosphere;
- q. Meet standards for appropriate utilization of the home;
  - i. The total number of foster children that may be cared for in a foster family home must not exceed six except for the following reasons:
    - 1. To allow a parenting youth in foster care to remain with the child of the parenting youth;
    - 2. To allow siblings to remain together;
    - 3. To allow a child with an established, meaningful relationship with the family to remain with the family; and
    - 4. To allow a family with special training or skills to provide care to a child who has a severe disability.
  - ii. Caregivers must provide a safe sleeping space, including sleeping supplies, such as a mattress and linens for each individual child, as appropriate for the child's needs and age;
  - iii. All children in the home must be treated equitably, meaning each child has a sleeping arrangement similar to other household members;
  - iv. Caregivers must not co-sleep, or bed-share, with children in foster care;
  - v. Caregivers with infants must adhere to infant sleeping practices outlined in the Infant Safe to Sleep Guidelines and Protocol.
- r. Support the religious and spiritual beliefs of a child's birth family;

continued

- s. Comply with the standards in the Foster Parent Manual;
- t. Comply with requirements for supervision of children;
- u. Comply with requirements for discipline of children;
- v. Follow the medication management protocol;
- w. Have functional smoke alarms, fire extinguisher and carbon monoxide detector in the home.
  - i. Must post a written evacuation plan in a prominent place in the home (e.g. on a refrigerator or family bulletin board), and review it with the children.
  - ii. Must maintain a comprehensive list of emergency telephone numbers, including poison control, and post numbers in a prominent place in the home.
  - iii. Must maintain first aid supplies.
- x. Meet all safety guidelines in regard to fire safety, water safety, firearm safety, gas heaters, unvented fuel-fired heaters, pet inoculations, etc.
  - i. Must not smoke, and ensure that their guests do not smoke in the foster family home, in any vehicle used to transport a child, or in the presence of a child in foster care.
  - ii. Must adhere to the title IV-E agency's reasonable and prudent standards.
- y. Have a Family Evaluation (Initial and subsequent) approved by the DFCS County Director/Designee or Child Placing Agency Director/Designee.
- z. Must have emergency preparedness plans appropriate for the home's geographic location

**Acknowledgment Statement**

I have reviewed and understand that I must meet (for initial approval) and remain in compliance with the Safety and Quality Standards through my caregiving service.

Primary Caregiver Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Caregiver Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_