

Agreement Between Foster Parents and Licensing Agency

In Minnesota, the local county/tribal social service agency is responsible for providing child welfare services. In many cases, the court system has oversight responsibility for foster care placement and permanency outcomes. When children are placed in foster care, their parent(s), the responsible agency (county or tribal agency that has responsibility for placement), the licensing agency and foster parents, all must work together to ensure a foster child's well-being, safety and plan for permanency. This means all standards and policies set forth by law, and by the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, are understood and met. In some cases, the responsible agency and the licensing agency will be different. **A summary of the responsible agency requirements is explained in [DHS-0139A](#).**

This agreement between foster parents and the licensing agency outlines their respective responsibilities.

Foster care licensing agency agrees to:

1. Assist prospective foster parents with the licensing process to:
 - Provide information about family foster care standards and licensing requirements
 - Consider and process variance requests
 - Help foster parents complete the background study process
 - Make home visits to complete the home study assessment.
2. Provide orientation and ongoing opportunities for training for foster parents that prepares them to meet the needs of foster children.
3. Provide Minnesota's Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard Guidance and training for foster parents to gain skills and knowledge in applying the reasonable and prudent parent standard when considering a foster child's participation in age- or developmentally appropriate activities.
4. Describe the state's liability insurance coverage provided for all licensed foster parents caring for children.
5. Help foster parents make informed decisions as to the suitability of their home to care for a specific child before placement.
6. Help foster parents understand that a decision not to take placement of a specific child will not jeopardize their license, or consideration of their home for other children.
7. Investigate alleged licensing violation reports to determine if requirements are being met.
8. Provide foster parents with written and verbal opportunities to evaluate licensing agency practices.
9. Include foster families in annual evaluations regarding their roles and responsibilities, and their need for support, during and after children's placements.

Foster parents agree to:

1. Allow representatives of the responsible social services agency, licensing agency and/or commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, access to their home and property for the purpose of licensing, placement and supervision.
2. Consider foster care a temporary living situation for a child and recognize that the county or tribal agency is responsible for making and carrying out the service and concurrent permanency plan for a child. This includes supporting reunification with the child's parents or transition to a relative or non-relative foster home.
3. Accept children for foster care placement as described in the statement of intended use.
4. Actively cooperate and participate with the responsible agency case manager and other appropriate professionals to develop and implement a child's out-of-home placement plan (OHPP). Preserve family relationships, including visitation as directed by the case manager or OHPP.

5. Provide for the needs of child, including food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, personal needs and, consistent with the OHPP, provide timely access to medical and dental care, including prescription medications and mental health services by qualified professionals.
6. Develop a plan for a smoke-free home environment for foster children.
7. Provide supervision in accordance with a child's age and needs, as assessed in the Minnesota Assessment of Parenting for Children and Youth (MAPCY).
8. Immediately report a missing foster child to the responsible county or tribal agency and law enforcement.
9. Report to the responsible agency plans to take a child out of the state, when a child will be away from the foster home for longer than three nights, any changes in household members or plans to move, any serious family illness, and any serious illness or accident involving a foster child.
10. Make every effort to increase understanding of, and respect for, the religious, racial and cultural heritage, and sexual orientation and gender identity of a child and their family.
11. Acknowledge the effect of trauma and the difficulties a foster child may experience adjusting to a new environment. Make every effort to understand and be patient in addressing challenging behaviors of a child that result from the impact of trauma, separation and the grieving process. This may include participation in therapy and other services, as directed by the OHPP or arranged by the responsible county or tribal social service agency.
12. Apply the prudent parent standard and support a foster child's participation in extracurricular, social and cultural activities typical for the child's age, or are developmentally appropriate.
13. Ensure a child's personal property and funds in the foster home are available for their use, unless restricted in child's OHPP. If a child is removed from the home, their property and funds, including any that were accumulated during placement, are returned within three days of removal.
14. Support placement stability for a foster child by asking for consultation and direction from the responsible agency if issues arise that cannot be resolved between foster parents and foster child. Prior to requesting removal of a child, foster parents must work with the responsible agency to determine if additional strategies or support services may resolve issues leading to the request for removal. When all resources are exhausted, provide the responsible agency with sufficient time (45 days, if possible) to plan for discharge.
15. Allow the responsible agency caseworker and child opportunities to meet alone.
16. Comply with requirements of the Family Foster Care Confidentiality Agreement, Attachment A, which is incorporated into this agreement.

By signing below, I, as the applicant or licensed foster parent, acknowledge that I have read this document and understand my responsibility to maintain confidentiality of the information provided to me regarding the foster child(ren) in my care. I also acknowledge that I have been provided a copy of this document.

We understand the policies and practices and our respective roles. We agree to carry out our responsibilities and comply with requirements in Minnesota Statutes and Rules at all times while providing foster care to children.

FOSTER PARENT

DATE

FOSTER PARENT

DATE

CHILD FOSTER CARE SOCIAL WORKER

DATE

Attachment A: Child Foster Care Confidentiality Agreement

- A. The foster parent, having access to not public information* about a foster child and their family agrees not to discuss or otherwise disclose that information to any other person prior to child's placement in foster care, while they are in the foster home, or after they leave the foster home, except to the following:
1. **The licensing agency.**
 2. **The responsible social services agency.**
 3. **Those involved in child's treatment plan.**
Foster parents must identify and share information, if appropriate, with persons who are directly involved in child's treatment plan. A treatment plan is a written plan for intervention, treatment, and services for a child in a foster setting.
 4. **Child's respite care and substitute care providers, and short-term babysitters.** Foster parents must give these providers information needed to care for a child, including their emotional, behavioral, medical and physical health conditions; medications child takes; and the names and telephone numbers of individuals to contact in case of an emergency, including how to obtain medical care.
 5. **Child's medical and dental care providers.** When foster parents obtain either routine medical and dental care for a child, or emergency care, they may share or obtain necessary information.
 6. **Foster child's child care providers.** When foster parents enroll a child in a child care program, they may communicate to the provider necessary information to care for a child, including information required in an application to the child care program.
 7. **Child's education professionals.** When foster parents enroll a child in school according to their OHPP, foster parents may communicate to school staff necessary information to educate the child, including information required for enrollment in school.
 8. **Child's extracurricular, social, or cultural activity programs.** When foster parents sign up a child for extracurricular, social, or cultural activities under the reasonable and prudent parenting standard, they may communicate to organization staff necessary information for a child to be signed up for, and participate in an activity.
- B. Foster parents agree not to share any nonpublic information about a foster child and their family with neighbors, family members of foster parents who have not been approved by the responsible agency to receive information, or others who do not provide services or care to a foster child. Foster parents agree not to share nonpublic information about a foster child and their family on social media, unless otherwise approved by the responsible agency.
- C. Foster parents agree that if they are unsure about any restriction of information, how to maintain written records related to a foster child and record retention, they will discuss these questions with the county or tribal agency that has responsibility for placement.

* As defined by Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13.

Civil Rights Notice

Discrimination is against the law. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) does not discriminate on the basis of any of the following:

- race
- color
- national origin
- creed
- religion
- sexual orientation
- public assistance status
- marital status
- age
- disability
- sex
- political beliefs

Civil Rights Complaints

You have the right to file a discrimination complaint if you believe you were treated in a discriminatory way by a social services agency.

Contact **DHS** directly only if you have a discrimination complaint:

Civil Rights Coordinator
 Minnesota Department of Human Services
 Equal Opportunity and Access Division
 P.O. Box 64997
 St. Paul, MN 55164-0997
 651-431-3040 (voice) or use your preferred relay service

Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR)

In Minnesota, you have the right to file a complaint with the MDHR if you believe you have been discriminated against because of any of the following:

- race
- color
- national origin
- religion
- creed
- sex
- sexual orientation
- marital status
- public assistance status
- disability

Contact the **MDHR** directly to file a complaint:

Minnesota Department of Human Rights
 Freeman Building, 625 North Robert Street
 St. Paul, MN 55155
 651-539-1100 (voice)
 800-657-3704 (toll free)
 711 or 800-627-3529 (MN Relay)
 651-296-9042 (fax)
 Info.MDHR@state.mn.us (email)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights (OCR)

You have the right to file a complaint with the OCR, a federal agency, if you believe you have been discriminated against because of any of the following:

- race
- color
- national origin
- age
- disability
- sex
- religion

Contact the **OCR** directly to file a complaint:

Director
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services'
 Office for Civil Rights
 200 Independence Avenue SW, Room 509F
 HHH Building
 Washington, DC 20201
 800-368-1019 (voice)
 800-537-7697 (TDD)
 Complaint Portal: <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>

Agency Use: Enter a contact number that can assist with a request to interpret this document.

Attention. If you need free help interpreting this document, call the above number.

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ملاحظة: إذا أردت مساعدة مجانية لترجمة هذه الوثيقة، اتصل على الرقم أعلاه.

သတိ။ ဤစာရွက်စာတမ်းအားအခမဲ့ဘာသာပြန်ပေးခြင်း အကူအညီလိုအပ်ပါက၊ အထက်ပါဖုန်းနံပါတ်ကိုခေါ်ဆိုပါ။

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請注意，如果您需要免費協助傳譯這份文件，請撥打上面的電話號碼。

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Thov ua twb zoo nyeem. Yog hais tias koj xav tau kev pab txhais lus rau tsab ntaub ntawv no pub dawb, ces hu rau tus najnpawb xov tooj saum toj no.

ဟ်သုတ်ဟ်သးဘတ်တက့ၢ်. ဝဲနမ့ၢ်လိၣ်ဘတ်တၢ်မၤစၢၤကလိလၢတၢ်ကကျိးထံဝဲဒၣ်လၢ် တီလံာ်မိတခါအံၤန့ၣ်, ကိးဘတ်လိတဲမိနီၣ်ဂံၢ်လၢထးအံၤန့ၣ်တက့ၢ်.

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ໂປຣດຊາບ. ຖ້າຫາກ ທ່ານຕ້ອງການການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອໃນການແປເອກະສານນີ້ພໍ, ຈົ່ງໂທໂປຣໂທພາຍເລກຂ້າງເທິງນີ້.

Hubachiisa. Dokumentiin kun tola akka siif hiikamu gargaarsa hoo feete, lakkoobsa gubbatti kenname bilbili.

Внимание: если вам нужна бесплатная помощь в устном переводе данного документа, позвоните по указанному выше телефону.

Digniin. Haddii aad u baahantahay caawimaad lacag-la'aan ah ee tarjumaadda qoraalkan, lambarka kore wac.

Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para interpretar este documento, llame al número indicado arriba.

Chú ý. Nếu quý vị cần được giúp đỡ dịch tài liệu này miễn phí, xin gọi số bên trên.

LB2 (8-16)



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