

Lucas County Children Services Foster/Adoptive Parent Compliances

Re: Foster and/or Adoptive Home _____

ANIMAL STATEMENT

In accordance with ORC rules 5101:2-7-12 (S) & (T) and 5101:2-48-12 (H) (4) "Pets or domestic animals in or on the premises of a foster/adoptive home shall be kept in a safe and sanitary manner in accordance with state and local laws" and "A foster child shall be protected from animals potentially dangerous to his health and safety in or on the premises of a foster/adoptive home".

- 1) All animals in or on the premises of the foster/adoptive home shall be immunized against rabies in accordance with ORC 955.39 and a copy of the vaccination record will be provided to the agency. It is the foster/adoptive family's responsibility to update vaccinations in a timely manner and to assure that current copies of the record are provided to the agency. Foster/adoptive parents also have the responsibility of complying with all community regulations regarding pets including but not limited to licensure, kenneling, insurance, number of pets allowed and leash laws. Lucas County Children Services may revise this policy to reflect any changes in State laws.
- 2) It is the responsibility of the foster/adoptive parents to know the physical condition and temperament of any pets or animals in or on any premises. This includes but is not limited to age, illness or injury which may impact the normal tolerance level of the animal to children. The foster/adoptive parents will take proper precautions to separate an animal from children when illness, age, injury or other factors may cause it to become aggressive. The foster/adoptive parent will provide a statement from the dog's veterinarian stating that the dog is not aggressive.
- 3) Foster/adoptive parents have the responsibility of taking all the necessary and reasonable precautions to introduce children to all family pets in the safest manner possible, as well as monitoring daily interaction. Foster/adoptive parents should take into consideration at least the following when exposing a child to animals in the home: the physical, emotional and/or cognitive development of the child, the child's history and/or experience with animals (including but not limited to fears, allergies or aggressive behavior toward animals).

HOT TUB SUPERVISION AGREEMENT

I/We always agree to provide direct physical supervision to a foster child to ensure a safe environment and monitor the child's activity while the hot tub is in use or the child will be near the hot tub. Direct physical supervision means that the child will be maintained in our line of sight and within a proximity of 15 feet or less. Should an alternate care provider be used, we agree to instruct them with the same directions regarding supervision to ensure that a safe environment for the foster child is continuously maintained. I/We also agree to keep the hot tub covered with a *locked* cover when it is not in use.

TRAMPOLINE SUPERVISION AGREEMENT

I/We always agree to provide direct physical supervision to a foster child to ensure a safe environment and monitor the child's activity while the trampoline is in use or the child will be near the trampoline. Direct physical supervision means that the child will be maintained in our line of sight and within a proximity of 15 feet or less. Should an alternate care provider be used, we agree to instruct them with the same directions regarding supervision to ensure that a safe environment for the foster child is continuously maintained. I/We also always agree to use an enclosure on the trampoline.

RULES FOR THE UTILIZATION OF POOLS/PONDS ON THE PROPERTY OF FAMILY FOSTER/ADOPTIVE HOMES

The following rules are necessary to ensure the safety of foster children residing in the foster home. These rules will be part of the Foster/Adoptive Parent Agreement with Lucas County Children Services and they will be in effect whenever foster children are placed in the home.

- 1) A pool shall be equipped with a pool monitor that is activated when the pool is not in use.
- 2) A pool shall have at least one (1) floatation device year-round.
- 3) A pond shall have at least one (1) floatation device or long pole, a minimum of 12 feet long in length around it always.
- 4) At no time can a foster child play near the pool/pond without adult supervision. The adult must be able to swim.
- 5) There must be direct physical supervision with a maintained line of sight and a proximity of 15 feet or less while a foster child is in or near the open pool/pond.
- 6) Should an alternate care provider be used around the pool/pond, they will be provided with the above instructions and agree to follow the rules.
- 7) Each foster child is entitled to have swimming lessons. These will be paid for by LCCS if the lessons are given by an accredited organization such as the YMCA.

SMOKING AND VAPING AGREEMENT

I/We agree to provide a smoke and vapor free environment to foster children by adhering to the following rules. Should an alternative caregiver be used, we agree to make sure they understand and agree to the rules regarding smoking and vaping when caring for foster children.

- 1) No smoking or vaping shall be permitted in the living area of a foster home or in a vehicle used to transport a foster child when a foster child is present.
- 2) All smoking or vaping shall be conducted out of the sight of foster children.
- 3) The area where smoking or vaping is occurring is so far removed from the foster children that the children cannot inhale any smoke or vapors.

By signing this statement, I/we agree to follow the terms stated above for the duration of my/our foster license or the approval of my/our adoption home study.

BABYSITTING/EMERGENCY/BACK UP PLAN

Number and ages of children that you will Foster/Adopt _____
When children are placed in your home, you are required to have a plan already in place for:

- Your plan to care for the child for the first few days after they are placed in your home to get them settled in and to get school, day care, etc. set up.
- Your plan for day care.
- Your plan when a child is sick and cannot go to school or day care.
- Your plan when a child needs to be picked up from school or day care early.
- Your plan for babysitting if you need to go out, to training, or you have an emergency.
- How you are going to get the children to all needed appointments.

This NEEDS to be well thought out BEFORE the home study process begins.

Your plan to care for the child for the first few days after they are placed in your home to get them settled in and to get school, day care, etc. set up (things to consider are: most day cares do not take children under the age of 6 weeks. You will have to arrange with your work to take time off to set up day care, doctor appointments, get the children enrolled in school, etc.)

Your plan for ODJFS approved day care: (including name of center you intend to use, back up center if that one is full, etc.)

Your plan when a child needs to be picked up from school or day care early:

Your plan for babysitting if you need to go out, to training, or you have an emergency:

Your plan to get the children to all necessary appointments: (including but not limited to doctor, counseling, therapy, visits with parents, school appointments, etc.)

It is also understood that if or when I/we sign adoption agreements for a child, that I am accepting full responsibility for providing day care for that child.

DISCIPLINE AGREEMENT

I will never use any type of physical punishment such as paddling, punching, shaking, biting, hitting, pushing, pinching, pulling hair, burning, kicking, whipping, strapping, switching, squeezing, washing the child's mouth with soap or other substances, rough handling, etc. on any foster child. I will ensure no one residing in my home or approved as a back up practices these types of discipline.

I will use non-violent forms of discipline which stress praise, encouragement and build the child's self-esteem and trust and ensure that everyone in my household does the same.

I will never use any type of cruel or humiliating punishments such as making the child take an uncomfortable position, excessive exercise or work, excessive grounding, denial of clothes, shelter, sleep, force the child to wear soiled underwear for long periods of time, deny the child meals, medical care, visitation, contact with their social worker, treating the child differently than other children in the home, etc. I will ensure no one residing in my home or acting as an approved back up will practice any of these types of discipline.

I will provide children with care and discipline appropriate to their age, functioning level and special needs and ensure approved back up does the same.

I will never verbally abuse a child such as belittling, making negative remarks about the child or his/her family, their culture, using racially offensive terms, threatening the child with removal, violence or the supernatural (threatening the boogie man or devil in you type remarks), excessive taunting and teasing, etc. and will ensure that everyone in my household or serving as an approved back up understands this is not acceptable.

I will request assistance from the agency and attend training when a child's behavior is becoming too difficult to manage.

I will never physically restrain a child as punishment such as taping mouths and hands, locking in closets or rooms, tying up the child, sitting on the child, etc. and will ensure everyone residing in my household or acting as an approved back up understands this and does not treat the children placed in my home in this manner.

INSURANCE/CAR SEAT/TRANSPORTATION STATEMENT

I/We the undersigned agree to only transport our foster children in vehicles that have Liability Insurance. I/We agree to not use a cell phone while transporting foster children. Also, in accordance with Ohio State Foster Care Rule 5101:2-7-15(D) and (E), I/we agree that any foster children under four (4) years of age or under 40 pounds, will be secured in car seats secured by a seat belt in the back seat of the car (if a back seat is available).

- An infant less than one year of age and 20 pounds in weight shall be restrained only in a rear-facing position and whenever possible shall not be placed in the front seat of a motor vehicle equipped with passenger side air bags.
- Toddlers between 20 pounds and 40 pounds in weight shall be restrained in a forward-facing position.

When a foster child is more than eight (8) years old and over 80 pounds in weight or shorter than 4 feet 9 inches in height, the child shall be restrained in a belt positioning booster seat in a forward-facing position. The booster seat shall be placed in the back seat of any motor vehicle that has a back seat.

Number of people in the foster home: Adults _____ Children _____

Ages of children in foster home: _____

List all vehicles and number of available seats:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Number of Infant Car Seats: _____

Number of Toddler Car Seats: _____

Number of Booster Seats: _____

Insurance: _____

Drivers Licenses:

Foster Parent 1: _____

Foster Parent 2: _____

Other Adult: _____

LCCS INDIVIDUAL TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The home study assessor will discuss with the applicant the ongoing training requirements. Thirty hours of training per person before the end of the two-year recertification period (Family Foster), 45 hours in the case of Treatment Level Foster Care is required. The social worker will also review the ITNA document explaining that the trainings should reflect the characteristics of the children they have been approved to foster.

By signing this document, you the foster parent(s) are acknowledging that the Individual Training Needs Assessment (ITNA) has been reviewed with you during the home study process.

Additionally, Lucas County Children Services uses a system called CAPS to record training and to engage foster parents. It requires that each foster/adoptive parent have an individual email address, which in part is used for notifications regarding trainings available and sometimes cancellations. The only exception to this requirement is if the foster/adoptive parent(s) has no access to a computer or device in order to use the system.

This document also acknowledges that the ITNA will be completed with your foster care worker within the 30 days of the approved home study.

Applicant #1 email address: _____

Applicant #2 email address: _____

CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

Due to the nature of the services provided by Lucas County Children Services and, specifically by foster parents, all staff and all foster parents must be very discreet about the information they give to others.

