

## **Lucas County Children Services Foster/Adoptive Parent Compliances FOR CONTINUOUS CERTIFICATION COMPLIANCE**

**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).

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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.
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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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: \_\_\_\_\_

**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. Even accidental disclosure of personal information about foster children or families is a violation of confidence. Good judgment and respect for the rights of children and their families is required.

Foster parents will be given a substantial amount of information about a foster child and his/her family for service purposes. Foster parents are not to be given information that is unnecessary for services, and they must not share personal, sensitive bits of information with others who have no service role. Personal, sensitive information includes, for example, such things as the fact that a child's parent may be an alcoholic, that a child was once hospitalized for certain behaviors, or that the child has been adjudicated delinquent.

When someone else does have a role in the child's services, such as a teacher or visiting relative, the only personal information that should be shared is what the other person needs to know to help in the child's services/development; and even that information should be shared only with a person who would treat the information in a confidential, professional manner.

Discussion of services and procedures should not take place in public (you would be surprised how many mental health professionals have found that a waitress, passenger on a bus, or other stranger knew a client of theirs). If procedures are discussed at an in-service meeting or similar semi-public place, the name of the child and family should not be used.

I/We have read the above confidentiality statement and understand that any violation of this policy is adequate grounds for immediate termination of my/our involvement in foster care giving.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Foster/Adoptive Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Foster/Adoptive Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date