



FOSTER PARENTS

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



FOSTER PARENT LAW

The Foster Parent Law defines the rights and responsibilities for all foster families in Illinois. The statement of rights helps foster caregivers, agencies and DCFS know what role caregivers will play on the child welfare team and the consideration they should receive. The statement of responsibilities helps caregivers know what will be expected of them and gives a clear understanding of the general expectations they should have of DCFS or the private foster care agency.

To read the full text of the law, visit

[DCFS.Illinois.gov](https://www.dcf.gov/DCFS.Illinois.gov)

(About Us > Policies, Rules and Forms > Laws > Foster Parent Law)

CAREGIVERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

1. Be treated with dignity, respect and consideration.
2. Be provided pre-service and appropriate ongoing training to improve skills.
3. Be informed on how to receive supportive services from the agency.
4. Receive timely financial reimbursement commensurate with child's service plan.
5. Be provided a clear, written understanding of the plan concerning the child's placement and how it will support his family relationship and cultural identity.
6. Fair, timely and impartial investigations of licensing complaints.
7. Receive additional information to assist in the care of a child while in placement.
8. Receive specific information from DCFS and private agencies listed in Children and Family Services Act and the Child Care Act of 1969.
9. Be notified of scheduled meetings and staffings in order to participate in case planning and decision-making.
10. Be provided, before placement, with any information a caseworker has that is pertinent to the child's care and the permanency plan.
11. Receive written notice of any change in a child's case plan or of plans to terminate the child's placement, along with the reasons for the change or termination.
12. Timely notification of court hearings and right to intervene or request mandamus.
13. Be considered as a placement option when a foster child who was formerly placed with the foster parents re-enters DCFS care.
14. Access the existing appeals process with the assertion that the appeal will be free from acts of harassment and retaliation.
15. Be informed of the Foster Parent Hotline and the rights for foster parents when reporting misconduct by child welfare personnel.

CAREGIVERS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO:

1. Communicate and share information with the child welfare team.
2. Respect the confidentiality of information about the child and his family.
3. Advocate for children in the care of the foster parent.
4. Treat the child and his or her family with dignity, respect and consideration.
5. Recognize their individual and family strengths and limitations and to utilize appropriate supports as appropriate.
6. Be aware of the benefits of relying on and affiliating with other foster parents and foster parent associations.
7. Assess their ongoing training needs and take action to meet those needs.
8. Strategize with agency representatives to avoid placement disruptions and support the child if disruption occurs.
9. Recognize the impact of foster care on relationships and take steps to minimize stress as much as possible.
10. Positively promote the benefits of foster parenting.
11. Know the role, rights and responsibilities of foster parents, other professionals in the child welfare system, the child and the child's own family.
12. Know and fulfill their role as a mandated reporter and know policies regarding allegations that foster parents have committed abuse or neglect.
13. Know the purpose of and to participate in Administrative Case Reviews, client service plans and court proceedings.
14. Know the child welfare agency's appeal process.
15. Maintain accurate records.
16. Share information about the placement with subsequent caregivers/parents.
17. Provide care that respects the child's cultural needs supports the relationship between the child and his or her own family.



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