

DFCS CHILD SAFETY AGREEMENT

This form contains information about the safety of the safety resourced or placed children in your care by DFCS. Your initials and signature indicate your acknowledgement that the agency has reviewed with you the safety requirements outlined in this form and that you are in agreement with the safety requirements as stated below.

Animal Safety-As children are the primary victims of animal bites, (I/we) agree to comply with the following mandates listed below to assure the safety of any child placed in (my/our home):

- Provide close supervision of children when around animals.
- Refrain from keeping dangerous or aggressive dogs, or other pets, in the home, unless properly secured with a leash, fence or cage, etc. (as discussed in the Foster Parent Manual)
- Notify DFCS immediately if any dog attacks a child placed in your home.
- Carefully review the section on Animal Safety in the Foster Parent Manual (Rev. 2001)*

**Caregivers(s) Initial
Below**

Gun Safety-Firearms take the lives of thousands of children each year. To prevent the accidental death of any child placed in (my/our) home, (I/we) agree to the following mandates:

- Inform DFCS of the presence of firearms in (my/our) home, now or at any time in the future.
- Secure all firearms in (my/our) home, using one of the commercial brand safety locks available for this purpose, or under lock and key.
- Keep all firearms unloaded and out of the view and reach of children in the home.
- Never allow children placed in the home to handle guns.
- Carefully review the section on Gun Safety in the Foster Parent Manual (Rev. 2001)*

**Caregivers(s) Initial
Below**

Motor Vehicle Safety- Motor vehicle accidents are the leading causes of death for children of all races, ages 5-14, according to national statistics. To ensure the safety of children placed in (my/our) care, (I/we) agree to adhere to the following safety precautions while riding or driving motorized vehicles:

- Secure children under age 8 in a federally approved child safety restraint seat, that is properly installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Secure children 8 years and older in the rear seat of the vehicle with federally approved and properly installed safety seat belts.
- Refrain from transporting children/youth under 18 years of age in the bed of a pickup truck at any time. Children must always be properly secured with safety seat belts.
- Consult with the Case Manager prior to allowing a child to ride as a passenger or driver on any of the following: automobile (as driver only); motorcycle; motorbike; all terrain vehicles; small, high-speed water craft and other similarly motorized vehicles.
- Carefully review and abide by motor vehicle safety requirements outlined in the Foster Parent Manual, (Rev. 2001).

**Caregivers(s) Initial
Below**

Supervision- Children in are required to be supervised by appropriate adult caretakers at all times. In keeping with this requirement, (I/we) agree to adhere to the following:

- Provide appropriate adult supervision for the children in my care at all times.
- Refrain from leaving children placed in my care in the supervision of minors.
- Refrain from leaving children unattended in a motor vehicle.
- Refrain from leaving children in the care of unauthorized adult caretakers. Any substitute caretaker should have the agency's approval. *
- Obtain approval from the agency prior to leaving older children unsupervised.
- Carefully review and abide by the supervision requirements outline in the Foster Care Manual.

**Caregivers(s) Initial
Below**

***Water Safety-** According to the recent statistics, drowning ranks highest among the causes of accidental deaths for children and youth 0-24. Caregivers whose primary or alternate place of residence is equipped with an in-ground /above ground swimming pool are required to take extra safety precautions. To ensure the safety of children in our home, (I/we) agree to the following water safety guidelines:

Caregiver(s) Initial
Below

- Inform DFCS immediately if/when our home fits the above criteria.
- Know or learn how to swim.
- Hold a current certificate in CPR or First Aid.*
- Obtain a certificate in Basic Water Rescue.*
- Enroll all children 3 years of age and older in a swimming class taught by a certified instructor.*
- Complete all water safety requirements within one (1) year of the child's placement in the home.*
- Ensure direct adult supervision of children when around bodies of water.
- Ensure the compliance with any local or state ordinances regarding pools or waterfront property.
- Secure the entire perimeter of the pool area with a fence and locked gate of sufficient height to prevent the entry of young children.*
- Obtain the approval of DFCS staff prior to allowing any child to ride or operate any watercraft.
- Review and abide by all DFCS (Foster Parent Manual, Rev 2001)* and manufacture's safety guidelines.

*** Note:** Homes with ponds, or homes located on waterfront property, are required to employ substantive safety measures to ensure the protection of children in the home.

Caregiver(s) Initial
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Discipline Policy- DHR/DFCS policy prohibits the use of corporal or unusual punishment on a child in its custody. Children removed from their parents or other caretakers due to neglect or abuse must be disciplined in ways that do no perpetuate the physical and emotional pain experienced as a result of past inappropriate parenting practices. To ensure the safety and well-being of the children placed in (my/our) home, (I/we) agree to the following:

- Refrain from the use of any corporal or unusual punishment on a child placed in (my/our) home, including, but not limited to the following: spanking, slapping, switching, shaking, pinching, biting, twisting, or pulling; tying with rope, withholding food, force feeding, denying mail; denying appropriate contacts with family, denying contact with worker; degrading child or child's family, or humiliating child; creating fear, anger and anxiety, locking child in a room, closet or outside the home; group punishment or delegating older children to administer punishment; destroying the child's property and any other practices which may physically or emotionally damage the child.
- When managing children's behavior, use the suggested alternative methods (or other effective means of discipline) made available by DFCS or found in the appendix of the Foster Parent Manual (Rev. 2001).
- Seek on-going information/training to build and enhance (my/our) child behavioral management skills.
- Immediately inform the agency of the need for assistance in managing the behavior of any child placed in (my/our) home.

***Note:** Decisions made regarding the violation of policy or Child Protective Services are not grievable. Substantiation of the abuse/neglect of children placed in your home is appealable of you or your significant other are the perpetrator. Refer to administrative appeals policy on ODIS.

Note: This Child Safety Agreement is reviewed with the relative caregivers at the time of the initial placement and yearly at the time of the re-evaluation or prior to a child residing with a safety resource. The safety resource is not responsible for bulleted items with a star (*). Both caretakers are required to initial and sign as indicated.

_____/_____
Father (Date)

_____/_____
Mother (Date)

_____/_____
Other Caregiver (Date)

_____/_____
Case Manager (Date)

_____/_____
Supervisor (Date)

_____/_____
County Director/Designee (Date)