

Attachment V: Foster Care Roles and Responsibilities

Standard Roles and Responsibilities

Responsibilities to the Foster Child

1. Provide a safe and comfortable environment for youth to live, having a separate bed and place for his/her belongings.
2. Provide for the youth's basic physical and emotional needs equitable to that of any adoptive or biological child(ren) in the home.
3. Provide for school attendance, monitor progress, note special needs and accomplishments.
4. Provide appropriate clothing.
5. Attend to medical and dental needs including regular checkups as well as attending to special needs.
6. Help the youth through the grieving and adjustment process that accompanies removal from their home and placement.
7. Help the youth maintain a realistic relationship with his/her family through cooperation with visitation and active consideration for his/her feelings.
8. Provide spiritual, recreational, and enrichment activities that will promote the healthy development of the youth.
9. Provide an allowance equal to that of any other children of similar age in the family foster home who receives an allowance. Monies a child may earn from allowance or employment shall be the child's and not for the provision of needs otherwise provided by reimbursement payments.
10. Maintain a record for the youth of his/her time in care through a life book including, accomplishments, photographs, report cards, etc.
11. Provide consistent and realistic discipline and guidance that is age appropriate and does not involve corporal punishment.
12. Ensure that upon departure from foster home the following will be sent along with the youth: all of the youth's personal belongings including clothing, earnings and savings, child's lifebook and any item purchased specifically for and given to the child(ren) during placement.
13. Assisting youth with Independent and Transitional Living Goals, especially for those aging out of the system.

Responsibilities to the Birth Parents

1. Cooperate and assist with the parenting time (visitation) plan, weekly interactions and shared parenting.
2. Help the youth maintain a realistic perception and attitude towards own parent.
3. Provide necessary and appropriate information about the youths growth and development, likes, dislikes, etc.
4. Prepare the youth to return home when appropriate.
5. When appropriate, to be a mentor, and to model and discuss parenting skills.

Responsibilities to Own Birth Family

1. Discuss openly with all family members the decision to foster, allowing all members to participate in the decision.
2. Make every effort to maintain usual lifestyle and relationship while providing foster care, including private time with own family members.
3. Help all members understand the impact taking in a foster child may

Attachment V: Foster Care Roles and Responsibilities

Standard Roles and Responsibilities

have on family routine, etc.

4. Prepare all members for the arrival and departure of foster children, including discussing the foster child's special needs.

Responsibilities to the Agency

1. To keep the agency informed of problems and progress of foster child(ren), including immediate notification of critical incidents.
2. In the event of a child or any individual living in the home, a report shall be submitted within 12 hours and will contain all know facts concerning the time, place, manner, and circumstance of death.
3. Keep the agency informed of changes in the home including a change of address or telephone number, deaths or departures of immediate family members, additions to family, notification of vacations, etc.
4. To be available for meetings with agency workers.
5. To attend Family Team Meetings.
6. To attend foster parent training.
7. To ensure that the agency's child placing license includes the ability to complete adoptions, including adoptive home studies.
8. Give a minimum 30-day notice when requesting removal of youth, irregardless of type of placement: relative/kin, foster, or other.
9. Cooperate with agency workers to implement plans for family reunification or permanent placement.
10. Comply with state regulations and agency policies and procedures.
11. Complete monthly progress report on each child placed in the home. Persons must be willing to keep required records on a monthly, weekly, and at times, on a daily basis. These reports are turned in and reviewed by Boys and Girls Home staff monthly.
12. Successfully complete and maintain the Licensing and Approval process.
13. Potential parents must complete a 12-hour (Family) to 20-hour (Enhanced/Specialized) program specific training session, in addition to the 27 hours of pre-service training (PRIDE) required for all foster parents in the State of Nebraska. Additional training for foster parents will be offered and their participation in these trainings will be encouraged.
14. Persons must have reliable transportation and accept responsibility for all the transportation needs of the child.
15. Must maintain a working telephone.
16. Work closely and cooperatively with Boys and Girls Home staff in learning how to carry out treatment and parenting interventions within prescribed guidelines.

Foster Parent's Rights

1. Foster parents have the right to confidential information about the child(ren) and the child(ren's) previous history.
2. Foster parents have the right to full knowledge about any previous behavior that could be detrimental to the child's health/safety or the safety of others. The exception to this is information regarding HIV and AIDS.
3. Foster parents have the right to make decisions regarding which

Attachment V: Foster Care Roles and Responsibilities

Standard Roles and Responsibilities

child or children they want in their home.

4. Foster parents have the right to participation as a team member with decision making power in the child's case plan.
5. Foster parents have the right to a fair and impartial assessment of their home and persona skills related to the task of foster parenting.
6. Foster parents have the right to be sponsored through Boys and Girls Home in a way the supports their successful nurturing of the foster child and have the immediate support by staff.
7. Foster parents have the right to ask for the removal of a child from their home whose needs and/or behaviors are not a suitable match. Foster parents should submit a request for removal to their Resource Development staff. The resource parent is to give 30-day notice, irregardless of type of placement (relative/kin, foster or other). Foster parents may waive the length of time. This waiver must be in written format with the signature of the resource parent. Exceptions may be made if the child presents a danger to him/herself or others.
8. Foster parents have the right to receive notice of a child being moved from their home. The resource parent is to receive a 30-day notice. Foster parents may waive the length of time. This waiver must be in written format with the signature of the resource parent. A child may also be moved with less notice if ordered or approved by the court, if the move is to a selected pre-adoptive family, or if the child is in danger in the foster home.
9. Foster parents have the right to training, instruction concerning agency policy and procedure, respite care, consultation, supervision by a professionally trained person in the field of foster care, and additional support in times of crisis.
10. Foster parents have the right to know reimbursement rates and to receive compensation for room, board, and personal investment of time and energy.
11. Foster parents have the right to have their grievances heard and addressed in a timely manner. This will not in any way interfere with the support and supervision the resource/foster family receives.