

**TUSCARAWAS COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES
CHILDREN SERVICES POLICY**

CARE AND DISCIPLINE OF CHILDREN IN CUSTODY

- A. A foster caregiver shall treat each foster child with kindness, consistency, and respect.
- B. A foster caregiver shall not discriminate in providing care and supervision to foster children on the basis of age, race, sex, religion, color, national origin, or sexual orientation.
- C. A foster caregiver shall ensure that each foster child who is not capable of meeting his own personal hygiene needs is clean and groomed daily.
- D. A foster caregiver shall provide each foster child instruction on good habits of personal care, hygiene and grooming appropriate to the child's age, sex, race, cultural background, national origin, and need for training. Foster children capable of meeting their own personal hygiene needs shall be provided with adequate personal toiletry supplies appropriate to the child's age, sex, race, national origin, and sexual orientation.
- E. A foster caregiver shall ensure that each foster child's clothing and footwear are clean, well-fitting, seasonal, and appropriate to the child's age and sex.
- F. A foster caregiver shall provide humane, instructive discipline appropriate to the age and functioning level of a foster child:
 - 1. Disciplinary methods shall stress praise and encouragement for desired behavior rather than punishment.
 - 2. Acceptable positive behavioral interventions include, but are not limited to, prompted relaxation, time-out, redirection, and logical consequences.
 - 3. All rules and expectations made by a foster caregiver shall be explained to a foster child in a manner appropriate to the child's age and understanding during the child's initial orientation and prior to any disciplinary action for violations of such rules.
 - 4. A foster child shall not be punished for actions over which the child has no control.
 - 5. A foster child shall not be punished for bed-wetting or in the course of toilet training activities.
- G. A foster caregiver shall not subject a foster child to verbal abuse or swearing; to derogatory remarks about foster children, their families, their races, their sex, their religion, their color, their national origin, their sexual orientation; or to threats of physical violence or removal from the family foster home.
- H. A foster caregiver shall not use any of the following punishments for a foster child:
 - 1. Physical hitting or any type of physical punishment inflicted in any manner upon the body such as spanking, paddling, punching, shaking, biting, hair pulling, pinching, or rough handling, or the use of any aversive stimuli;
 - 2. Physically strenuous work or exercises when used as a means of punishment;
 - 3. Requiring or forcing a foster child to take an uncomfortable position, such as squatting or bending, or requiring a foster child to repeat physical movements when used as a means of punishment;
 - 4. Denial of social or recreational activities for excessive or prolonged periods of time;

denial of activities is to be determined on a case-by-case basis but cannot exceed two weeks for any child;

5. Denial of social or casework services, medical treatment, or educational services;
6. Deprivation of meals or hydration;
7. Denial of visitation or communication rights with foster child's family as a means of punishment;
8. Denial of sleep;
9. Denial of shelter, clothing, bedding, or restroom facilities;
10. Group punishment or discipline for individual behavior;
11. Punishment by peers.

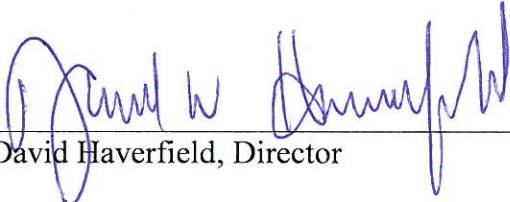
I. Physical restraint of a foster child shall only be utilized by a caregiver who has received specific training and annual review in acceptable methods of restraint. Documentation of such training shall be contained in the foster home record. This section is only applicable to foster care providers contracted with the agency. No foster home licensed by TCJFS is authorized to use physical restraint under any circumstance.

1. Physical restraint may be used by a caregiver:
 - a. For self-protection;
 - b. For protection of the child from self-destructive behavior;
 - c. To protect another person from a foster child.
2. A foster caregiver shall use only the least restrictive physical restraint necessary to control a situation and shall not use any device to prevent or restrict movement as punishment or for staff convenience.
3. The caregiver is to notify the placing agency and licensing agency (if different) immediately following the use of physical restraint. A detailed written report is to be submitted by the caregiver to the placing agency and licensing agency (if different) within twenty-four (24) hours following the use of physical restraint. The recommending agency is to notify the placing agency (if different) immediately upon receipt of the detailed written report from the caregiver. (A copy of the written report is to be placed in the foster caregiver's record.)

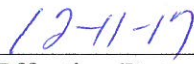
NOTE: THIS REQUIREMENT SUPERSEDES OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.

J. A foster caregiver shall not use corporal or degrading punishment; isolation; chemical, manual, prone, or mechanical restraint; or locked seclusion to control a foster child.

K. Any act of omission or commission by a foster caregiver or other member of the household which results in the death, injury, illness, abuse, neglect or exploitation of a foster child shall be grounds for the denial or revocation of a foster home certificate. This may be a recommendation of the agency supervising a foster home or the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.



David Haverfield, Director



Effective Date