

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES
RESOURCE FAMILY RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
Required by Rule 5101:2-42-20

AGENCY POLICY

I. Resource Family Bill of Rights

- A. No court or agency or any employee, volunteer, intern or subcontractor of a court or agency is to in any way violate any of the following rights of resource families:
1. The right to be treated with dignity and respect as the resource family providing the day-to-day care for children in the children services system.
 2. The right to be free of discrimination including race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, national origin (ancestry), military status (past, present or future), disability, age (forty years or older), genetic information, or sexual orientation.
 3. The right to receive training from either the recommending agency or the training designee and support from the recommending and custodial agencies to strengthen resource parenting skills and meet the needs of children in the care.
 4. The right to review the home study information that is not deemed confidential by the recommending agency.
 5. The right to receive clear expectations that relate to their role as a resource caregiver in partnership with the child in foster care, the child's family and with all other team members.
 6. The right to access a staff person representing the recommending or custodial agency inside and outside of normal business hours.
 7. The right to be informed of all known information about a child placed in their care pursuant to rule 5101:2-42-90 of the Administrative Code including information that may impact the health, safety, and well-being of any member of the resource family and community.
 8. The right to receive notification prior to court hearings and scheduled meetings concerning a child in their care and to be encouraged to share information during those opportunities.
 9. The right to receive training on the reasonable and prudent parent standard and, once trained, to act as the reasonable and prudent parent in making decisions for children placed in their care to participate in normal childhood activities that still maintain their health and safety.
 10. The right to actively work with the agency toward the permanency goal identified in the family case plan (e.g., reunification) and to support supplemental planning as established in rule 5101:2-38-05 of the Administrative Code, and participate in treatment planning (including independent living skills for children fourteen and older) for children in their care.
 11. The right to be informed of the processes available to submit grievances and/or complaints including with regards to these rights and to make their concerns known without fear of reprisal.
 12. The right to be informed of the process when a resource caregiver is investigated based on an allegation of maltreatment and points of contact, and what to anticipate as a person who is under investigation. The resource family has the right to be informed what supports and resources are available to them during the process and how the outcome may affect their relationship with the recommending and/or custodial agency.

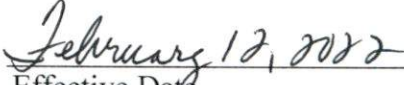
- B. Any agency involved with a resource caregiver is to inform the resource caregiver of their rights and responsibilities pursuant to rules contained within Chapter 5101:2-7 of the Administrative Code in writing as well as all agency policies that impact the caregiver and any child in their care. Nothing in this rule supersedes the requirement for resource caregivers to follow agency policies.
- C. If the rights of a resource caregiver, as established by this rule, conflict with the rights of a youth in foster care, as established in rule 5101:2-5-35 of the Administrative Code, the rights of the youth will preempt the rights of the resource family or resource caregiver.
- D. The rights established by this rule will not create grounds for a civil action against the department, the recommending agency, or the custodial agency.

II. Resource Families Responsibilities to the Child and Tuscarawas County Job & Family Services

1. Make decisions on behalf of the child in the day-to-day parenting role.
2. Treat the child in care and the child's family with dignity, respect, and consideration.
3. Provide care and services that are responsive to the child's needs and support the relationship between the child and his/her family.
4. Recognize problems in the home that require outside advice and assistance and to seek help.
5. Respect the confidentiality of information received.
6. Understand and work toward the plan related to the child in the home.
7. Advocate for the best interest of the child in care and his/her family.
8. Participate as a member of the child's treatment team including, but not limited to, attending SARs and conferences.
9. Support the visitation plan for the child with the parents, siblings, and other identified significant others and participate as appropriate.
10. Accompany the child and possibly the family to medical, physical, psychological, and other needed appointments and services and submit the reports to TCJFS.
11. Maintain accurate and relevant records regarding the child's activities and progress.
12. Assist in enrolling and participating in the child's involvement in school.
13. Report serious illnesses/accidents of family members or members of household.
14. Discuss with the agency and report changes/additions in family or household composition and prior to change, whenever possible.
15. Report housing relocations prior to move.
16. Agree to not accept additional placements from other agencies without the approval by the agency that holds the family's license and to abide by the agency's decision regarding the same.
17. Report any arrests or criminal charges or convictions within twenty-four hours for all members of the household (Policy 600.16.0).
18. Request permission from TCJFS if the child will be leaving the state of Ohio as set forth in Agency Policy 500.38.0.
19. Abide by TCJFS rules, policies, and procedures governing the TCJFS foster care and adoption programs.



David Haverfield, Director



Effective Date