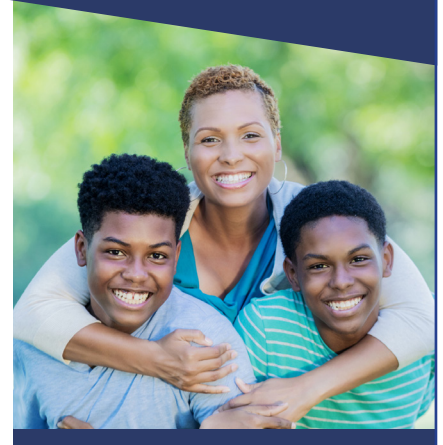


Local Department of Social Services Responsibilities to Resource Parents



- Make accurate and timely reassessments of resource parent capabilities;
- Provide resource parents with relevant information that is available about the child and the reason the child is being placed in foster care;
- Provide resource parents with the abbreviated health care record;
- Help resource parents to understand their rights and responsibilities;
- Include the resource parents in the development of any service agreements negotiated with any foster children in their care;
- Inform the resource parents of the child's permanency plan and keep them updated, when necessary, as to the progress of the achievement of that plan and give the resource parents the ability to provide input as to the plan;
- Explain payment criteria, including board rates, clothing allowance, and any supplemental expenditures made to meet the child's needs in accordance with COMAR 07.02.11;
- Explain and provide pre-service and in-service training;
- Provide appropriate supportive services when available that will enable the resource parents to meet the unique needs of the child and deal effectively with problems inherent in the child's adjustment to care;
- Obtain agreement of resource parents to any visitation plan that involves the use of the resource parents' home, with attempts made to balance the resource parents' right to privacy with the right of the birth parents to visit the child;
- Respond as soon as possible to crisis situations that may arise from the child's placement in the resource home;
- Assist the resource parents in preparation for the separation of the child from foster care placement;
- Assist the resource parent in the selection, preparation, and completion of continuing resource parent, training;
- Complete reconsideration every year or whenever there are major changes in the home of resource parents that could affect the resource parents' ability to care for foster children;
- Act in accordance with Regulation .15 of this chapter, and Family Law Article, §§5-704 and 5-706, of the Annotated Code of Maryland, when abuse or neglect is reported in a resource home;
- Obtain and maintain all pertinent records on the resource parents and the children for whom the resource parents have cared;
- Complete all appropriate forms to close the resource home record when necessary and end all foster care payments; and
- Maintain regular contact with the resource parents and the child in out-of-home care.

COMAR 07.02.25.08 &.09



Resource Parent responsibilities to the child include:

- Participate in the child's mental, physical and dental health;
- Provide parental supervision and guidance appropriate to the child;
- Respect the child and the child's family;
- Provide or arrange for transportation to appointments and activities;
- Keep the child's information confidential;
- Involve the child in family activities;
- Participate in the child's educational process;
- Provide daily essentials that are required for the child's health, comfort, and grooming including balanced diet, adequate shelter, and clothing proper for the season;
- Help the child cope with the anxiety of being away from the child's birth family and promote the child's self-esteem and positive self-image;
- Be sensitive to and respect the child's individual needs, tastes, and values and support the child's religious beliefs and cultural customs;
- Establish clear expectations for and limits on behavior, understand and deal with negative behavior in a positive way and reward good behavior;
- Provide at least 10 working days' notice if you request removal of a child except in circumstances that are critical to the health and safety of the child or resource family;
- Report any suspected incidence of a child's physical or sexual abuse or neglect to DSS as soon as you know of the incident;
- Provide an environment free from exposure to secondhand smoke; and
- Assist in preparing the child to accept the permanency plan and any move from the resource home.



Resource Parent responsibilities to the child's birth family include:

- Assist DSS in maintaining and improving the child's relationship with the birth family, and support this relationship by helping with family time/visits, which may include visits in the resource home;
- Maintain an attitude of respect and understanding towards the birth parents and family;
- Tell the child's birth parents about events and happenings in the child's daily life;
- Serve as a role model for the birth parent; and
- Communicate information about the birth family only to the local department of social services.

Resource Parent responsibilities to the local department of social services include:

- Participate in required training;
- Work as a team member in assessing a child's strengths and needs and in implementing the child's case plan;
- Keep DSS aware of the child's development and adjustment;
- Attend case reviews and meetings as requested by DSS;
- Maintain standards of resource family care (COMAR 07.02.25.05); and
- Immediately notify your Resource Home Worker of changes within the resource family, such as:
 - ◊ Employment and childcare arrangements;
 - ◊ Household composition;
 - ◊ Residence and telephone;
 - ◊ Health status;
 - ◊ Criminal charges, investigations or findings related to any crime committed by a household member; and
 - ◊ Stressful conditions that may affect the child's placement.

