



OFFICE OF LICENSING AND MONITORING

DATE: September 29, 2015

TO: All Child Placement Agencies

FROM: Darlene Ham, Executive Director

RE: Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard

Effective October 1, 2015, Child Placement Agencies are required to train existing and new foster parents, as well as staff, on the “Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard”. Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard is defined as careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain a child’s health, safety, and best interest while at the same time encouraging the child’s emotional and developmental growth, that a caregiver (foster parent) must use when determining whether to allow a child in out-of-home placement under the responsibility of the state to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities.

In September 2014, Congress passed the “Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families” Act (Public Law 113-183; H.R. 4980). The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act established the “reasonable and prudent parent” standard.

The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard includes cultural, social, enrichment, and/or extracurricular activities that are age and developmentally appropriate. The Child Placement Agency is responsible for training the foster parents on making sound decisions for the youth in their care regarding social activities such as dating, overnight visits with friends/family, after school activity, and holiday and historical observances.

The acknowledgement of adequate training and agreement with implementation must be added to the foster parent agreement at the initial and annual certifications. In addition, a similar written acknowledgment must be included in the personnel file for current and new personnel.

The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard will be presented and discussed at the Quarterly Provider Meeting in November 2015. PRIDE trainers will be invited to DHR/SSA’s training in November 2015 regarding Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard.

For further information regarding Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard, please refer to:

- www.congress.gov (Public Law 113-183) (H.R.4980)
- <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/pi1507>
- http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/pi1507_attachmentb.pdf
- <http://www.ocwtp.net/PDFs/Normalcy%20and%20RPPS%20Guide.pdf>

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