

# THE SALVATION ARMY FOSTER CARE PROGRAM CARE AGREEMENT

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RESOURCE PARENT**

### **The resource parent agrees, for each child placed with him or her to:**

Provide a safe, nurturing and stable environment that is free from abuse and neglect.

Promote the physical, mental and emotional well-being of the child as well as assist the child in maximizing his or her potential.

Respect the religious, linguistic, cultural, and racial heritage of the child and that of the child's birth family, encouraging an understanding and appreciation of this heritage.

Support the reunification of the child and family or alternative permanent plan as indicated on the service plan.

Permit and support visits between the child and parents or siblings as recommended by The Salvation Army Children's Services and County Agency.

Not use any physical punishment upon any foster child (children).

Participate fully on the implementation of the child's service plans, including the development of goals and tasks for self and foster child; implement tasks as identified and participate in case reviews.

Maintain confidentiality in regard to all information provided about the child and their family background and all information shared with the resource parents should only be shared with agency staff and other professionals such as physicians and therapists involved in the direct care of the child.

Participate in orientation and ongoing training programs as required by the agency.

Schedule appointments for the child's routine health care and dental care and any needed follow-up and insure that these appointments are kept as indicated in the service plan; advise the responsible caseworker of changes in the child's health status and medical and dental care received.

During each medical or dental appointment, request written documentation from the medical provider on physical and dental exam forms provided by the agency for inclusion in the child's record and submit all medical and dental forms to the child's caseworker as soon as possible.

Arrange for emergency medical treatment when necessary; arrange for the provision of special care (e.g. psychological attention) as indicated in service plan; and provide non-specialized care (e.g. administration of oral medication) as required.

Provide transportation for foster children visits with birth families and/or relatives, all medical and dental appointments and other necessary activities for the foster child.

Enroll the foster child in school. Authorize appropriate general school related activities such as registration and field trips and notify The Salvation Army Children's Services caseworker of educational activities authorized for the child.

Advise The Salvation Army Children's Services Administrator of the resource parent's affiliation with any other placement agency. Do not accept additional placements of foster children from another agency.

Notify The Salvation Army Children's Services caseworker of any vacation or trip which would result in the resource family's overnight absence from their usual place of residence.

Obtain The Salvation Army Children's Services written consent before taking a child out of the state.

Give up care of the child to no one other than The Salvation Army Children's Services. At least a 30 working days notice is required if removal of the child from the foster home is desired, except when immediate removal is necessary to ensure the life, health or emotional well-being of the child or of resource family members.

Notify The Salvation Army Children's Services of any overpayment made on the child's behalf by The Salvation Army Children's Services to the resource parent, and return this overpayment.

Comply with The Salvation Army Children's Services regulations and policies.

Resource parents are required to store alcohol in an area that is inaccessible to children of all ages. We require a locked cabinet or area inaccessible for those who are parenting older children.

Be responsible for and not hold the agency responsible for any injuries to ourselves or other people or for damage to property or vehicles which may result from care for children.

Provide adequate adult in-home supervision of children at all times and notify the agency, before accepting a child, of any child care plans during work hours or extended absences. Child care and day care providers must be approved by the agency. Babysitters must also be approved by the agency and be at least eighteen years of age.

Notify The Salvation Army Children's Services immediately when anyone 18 years or older begins to reside in your home.

In accordance with regulations maintain home as a smoke free environment and never smoke in your car when there is foster children present.

Maintain home in compliance with all home safety requirements as identified by the agency.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SALVATION ARMY CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

### **The Salvation Army Children's Services agrees to:**

Provide the resource parent with a thorough orientation of agency policies and procedures, roles and responsibilities of agency and parents and relevant training programs to aid in the care of foster children.

Provide the resource parent with sufficient information about a foster child, prior to placement, so that he or she can knowledgeably determine whether to accept the child or not, and provide the resource parent with sufficient ongoing information about the foster child to enable the resource parent to provide adequate foster care and to meet the individual needs of that child. Information should include child's medical history, mental health diagnosis, behaviors, educational needs and relationships with family members and previous placement history.

In accordance with state regulations, the agency will provide the name, address and phone number of the resource parents of the child in their care, unless doing so is restricted by court order; threatens the health and well-being of the child or resource family; or if the agency is able to document a plausible basis for refusing such disclosure. The agency will notify the resource parents as to the timing of this release of information and address any concerns regarding the matter.

Assign a caseworker who will be responsible for providing direct services to the foster child and support to the resource family. The agency will respond in an open, complete and timely manner when contacted by the resource parents regarding issues and concerns regarding caring for foster children.

Involve the resource parents in the Individual Service Plan and implementation of this plan as well as other case plans for children in their care. A copy of the service plan will be given to the resource parents. The agency will work with the resource parents to identify services to support the implementation of the Individual Service Plan.

Notify the resource parents of court proceedings related to the children in their care as soon as the agency is aware of such proceedings and other related meetings. Resource parents have the right to be heard in any court proceeding related to children in their care and should be given the opportunity to be heard regarding agency decisions related to court proceedings.

The agency will treat resource parents as part of the team in caring for children and will work together to ensure the safety, well-being and permanency of children.

Inform the resource parents of the range and frequency of payments he or she will receive for the care of a foster child.

Delegate to the resource parent of the range for authorized routine medical and dental care for a foster child placed in the family foster home.

Delegate to the resource parent the right to arrange and the right to authorized appropriate school related activities such as registration and field trips for a child placed in the family foster home.

Recognize the resource parent's right to maintain the resource parent's child rearing practices, as long as these do not conflict with The Salvation Army Children's Services regulation or policy, or the needs of the child.

Make available to the resource parent The Salvation Army Children's Services annual re-evaluation as well as any other reviews or evaluation of the family foster home.

Assist the resource parents in resolving problems and issues resulting in caring for foster children. The agency will also provide support in times of transition of foster children placement, respite and discharge. The agency will address issues of separation and loss for the Resource family when a child leaves their home as appropriate.

Notify the resource parent if the goal for a child who has resided in their care for at least six months is changed to adoption and to explore with the resource parents their interest in being an adoptive resource. The agency will review interest and consideration with the placing county agency. When more than one adoptive resource is available the agency will notify the resource parents and document the basis for selection in the child's file. The agency will notify the resource parents in regard to the criteria used in the selection process within the limitations of confidentiality provisions.

Notify the resource parent at least ten days in advance (except in emergency situation or when a child is returned to a parent, relative, or guardian) of a decision and reason for the decision to remove a child from the foster home or close the foster home.

According to state law agency staff is mandated to report any suspected child abuse. In the event an allegation of child abuse is made regarding a resource parent or member of their household, the agency will follow protocols in reporting the allegation and ensuring the safety of the child. The information pertaining to the report will be held in confidence and only released in accordance with state regulations.

Insure that a plan be developed with the resource parents for the care of the foster child or children during any extended absences of the resource parents.

**MUTUAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESOURCE PARENTS AND AGENCY**

Both the agency and the resource parents will interact with each other with consideration, respect and fairness and mutually work to develop and maintain a positive working relationship.

It is the responsibility of resource parents to help the child placed in their care. To do best serve the needs of the child it is of utmost importance for the resource parents and agency to maintain a positive working relationship and to follow common sense standards and best practice. There may be occasions when the resource parents and agency have differing opinions, if this should occur; there are steps to follow to maximize the opportunity to resolve the area of disagreement. Resource parents have the assurance that these steps can be taken with confidence that the Agency will not discharge, threaten, discriminate or retaliate when decisions and practices are questioned that are in the best interest of children.

- 1) Let the caseworker know there is an area of disagreement. If resource parents are not satisfied with the response, contact the casework supervisor.
- 2) Contact the casework supervisor and discuss your concerns or ask for a meeting. If not satisfied, contact the Director.
- 3) Contact the Director and discuss your concerns or ask for a meeting with all parties.
- 4) If you are unable to reach anyone and it is a matter of importance and can not wait, please ask to speak to someone immediately. The agency is on-call 24 hours a day to assist with emergency situations.

Please remember that every problem has a solution if we take the time to ask questions and work as a team. If you have questions about Resource family care in general or agency policy, you may contact your caseworker. At any time during the process you can also be connected with our Support Group or the State resource parent Association by calling our office at 610.821.7706. Our goal is to maximize your Resource family care experiences for you and the child entrusted to your care.

**ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS**

Please record additional agreements and/or responsibilities, if any:

---



---



---



---

As a resource parent with The Salvation Army Children’s Services, I understand the above statement of responsibilities and agree to the terms listed herein.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Resource Parent (Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Agency Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Resource Parent (Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

THE SALVATION ARMY  
RESOURCE PARENT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT

Resource parents approved with The Salvation Army Children's Services are responsible to provide transportation for the following appointments for each foster child placed in your home.

- All medical and dental appointments
- Counseling or therapy appointments
- Visits with child's biological family or former guardian
- School appointments
- Other appointments deemed necessary for the foster child's care

Resource Parents are expected to drive in a safe and responsible manner while transporting foster children in their care. All motor vehicle laws must be followed and speed limits observed. Car seats must be used in accordance with Pennsylvania state law.

Resource Parents are prohibited using hand-held cell phone devices while transporting foster children in their care. The only exception to this policy is if 911 must be called for an emergency. Resource Parents are urged not to use cell phone at all while driving children in their care and are asked to pull over to a safe location to make a cell phone call if absolutely necessary.

As a resource parent approved with The Salvation Army Children's Services, I understand the transportation policy and agree to the terms listed herein.

---

Signature of Resource Parent Date

---

Signature of Resource Parent Date

---

The Salvation Army Representative Date