

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Services Section 16: Resource Parent Role		
	Effective Date: July 1, 2026	Version: 10

POLICY OVERVIEW

Foster care provides a safe, nurturing, and stable temporary home for children who cannot stay in their own homes because of abuse or neglect (CA/N). The resource parent (also called a foster parent) takes care of the child full-time and makes sure the child is safe and supervised. The resource parent also helps the child feel good about who they are and supports their relationship with their birth family.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) requires resource parents to abide by federal and state statutes including:

1. Give the child a safe, caring home where they feel comfortable sharing their feelings. This includes feelings about:
 - a. Being removed from home,
 - b. Abuse or neglect,
 - c. Visits, or
 - d. Going back home.
2. Participate in planning meetings (like the Child and Family Team [CFT] Meetings and Case Conferences);
3. Support the child's case plan goals including any concurrent plan;
4. Make sure the child has their basic needs met. This includes making sure they have food, clothing, and shelter;
5. Keep information about the child confidential (private) as explained in the Resource Parent Role Acknowledgement form;
6. Call right away if the child is missing or runs away:
 - a. Call the local police where the child went missing, and
 - b. Call the DCS Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline (Hotline) at 1-800-800-5556 or email DCSHotlineReports@dcscs.in.gov.

Note: DCS will make sure the child's information is entered into the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) within 24 hours.

7. Stay neutral when talking to the child about visits or time with their parent, guardian, or custodian;
8. Encourage and support as much contact as possible between the child and their parent, guardian, or custodian, based on:
 - a. The child's comfort level;
 - b. Safety concerns;

- c. The needs of the child; and
 - d. Court orders.
9. Avoid speaking negatively about the child's family or anyone the child has a significant relationship with;
 10. Make sure the child gets regular health care;
 11. Keep the child's Medical Passport up to date and make sure the FCM can access the child's electronic medical records;
 12. Participate in court hearings and encourage youth age 14 and older to attend court hearings;

Note: Resource parents can share information with the court verbally or in writing using the Indiana Relative/Kinship/Foster Placement Reporting Form or another format.

13. Use the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard when deciding if a child should participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities;
14. Make sure the child has an opportunity to complete a Lifebook;
15. Complete the Resource Parent Travel Request form for all non-emergency travel requests for a child and return the form to the FCM within the timeframes specified in policy 8.24;
16. Tell DCS when there is a change in household members.

Note: A foster family home (FFH) cannot provide overnight or regular and continuous care and supervision to a child who is the subject of a power of attorney while providing care to a child placed in the home by DCS or probation without an exception.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 29-3-9-1: Delegation of powers by executed power of attorney; limitations](#)
- [IC 31-9-2.1-198: "Reasonable and prudent parent standard"](#)
- [IC 31-27-4-20.5: Use of reasonable and prudent parent standard](#)
- [IC 31-28-0.5: Electronic Records](#)
- [42 USC 675 \(10\)\(A\): Definitions of "reasonable and prudent parent standard"](#)