

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR KINSHIP PROVIDERS

Can foster parent sign as parent/guardian?

- As a provider, it is important to remember that while the child has been removed from his/her parents or legal guardian and placed in your home, the parent/legal guardian maintains legal signing rights and therefore as a provider you **CAN NOT** sign any documentation in which a parent/guardian signature is required. Foster parents can give permission to participate in age and developmentally appropriate field trips, sports, and other school, extracurricular, and social/cultural enrichment. (Prudent Parent Standards)
- Remember if one or more biological parent is involved and is willing to sign any/all releases/permission then the below regulations are easier to adhere to however if the biological parent(s) are not involved, the Department Regional Director become the signee because the child was removed from their parents' home and a legal petition was filed with the RI Family Court.

Medical

- Providers are given a Medical 004 ("blue form") which gives you permission to have the child treated on an emergency basis as well as for routine medical care. Providers have authorization for all routine immunizations. Prescriptions such as eye drops, cough medicine, antibiotics are ok. However, except in emergencies, the caregiver makes no decisions regarding major medical and surgical intervention including psychotropic medication, without the prior approval of the Department. **Permission must be granted in advance for anesthesia, surgery and any psychiatric services and evaluations.** (Regulation F. Medical Care # 3)
- Flu Shot: in the past the annual flu shot was not considered routine however the new 003 allows for vaccines recommended by the Ctr. For Disease Control
- When a child is injured, it is essential that the SCW is notified even if medical treatment is not necessary. If a child requires emergency medical treatment and/or is hospitalized, it is essential to contact the SCW as well as the CPS Hotline 1-800-742-4453 if after hours.

Altering a child's appearance

- Providers do not have permission to get a child's ears pierced or cut their hair however can do so with parent/legal guardian permission. Parents must provide written permission before such can occur. If a child had short hair entering your home, the hair can be maintained. No drastic changes to child's appearance (Prudent Parenting)

Provision of Services 1.7.3 Confidentiality Section C & Required Notification Section Q-5

- Due to confidentiality, no photos of the child can be distributed via social media websites, Written permission by the parent/legal guardian is needed for the child to participate in any activity in which a photo will be taken of the child. This includes permission to participate in any medical study or video.
 - While providers can take pictures, they can't post them publicly. Journals and scrapbooks for the child are acceptable
 - Keeping a calendar or a journal of events, medical appointments/updates and milestones is suggested. Additionally, recording any behaviors or issues of concern.

Provision of Services 1.7.3 Required Notification Section Q 1, 2 and 5

- Notify DCYF prior to allowing any person to visit in the home for a period in excess of 24 hours
- The caregiver notifies the Department prior to making plans for care of the foster or pre-adoptive child by another person for a period in excess of 48 hours.
- Any changes in household composition.
- The Department must be given in advance for a child to travel overnight/out of state with the provider in excess of 48 hours. The Department should be given all contact

information as well so it can be documented in the computer system prior to travel. I.e. dates of travel, address and contact phone number.

Provision of Services 1.7.3 Religion J-2

- Caregiver must notify and receive approval from the Department before any change is made in the religious affiliation of a child in care.

Provision of Services 1.7.3 Transportation E 2-5

- Condition of vehicle must be maintained in a safe condition and in compliance with state motor vehicle laws.
- A child transported in a motor vehicle must be in the appropriate safety restraint or seat belt (refer to Car Seat/Booster recommendations chart)
- A child must be transported in vehicles covered by liability insurance.
- Anyone who transports a child must have a valid driver's license.