



AK DFCS

SERVICES

# Resource Family Bill of Rights



## WORKING TOGETHER FOR ALASKA'S CHILDREN IN CARE

RFAB Email: akresourcefamilyboard@yahoo.com

OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

#### RESPECT

Resource families can expect to be treated with respect when interacting with staff of the State of Alaska Office of Children's Services and be included in discussions about the child prior to case planning, administrative reviews, TDMs and court hearings.

**OPTIONS** 

Resource families have the right to decide whether to accept placement of a child into their foster home. Resource families have the right to set a limit to the number of children that can be placed in their foster home within legal and licensing capacity.

CPS 3.5, AS 47.14.100

**CPS 1.3** 

#### RELIGION

Resource families have a right to practice their religion and spiritual practices in their home as long as the religious and spiritual practices of the child's birth family are also respected.

CPS 6.5.4, 7 AAC 67.230

#### PRIVACY

Resource families have the right to work with the caseworker on how family contact will be maintained in the home. Resource families will make the decision on what contact information will be provided to the parents/caregivers and the decision to allow birth family visits in the home.

#### CPS 6.5.6

#### INVOLVEMENT

Resource families have a right to receive notice of court hearings involving a child placed in their home.

CPS 6.6.3, AS 47.10.030

#### FAIR HEARING

Resource families have the right to a fair hearing on licensure actions on their home including access to an appeal process if given a plan of correction or if a license is revoked. Resource families have a right to include a written response to a completed investigation despite the outcome to be included in the foster care licensing file.

CPS 1.16, AS 47.10.098

#### INFORMATION

Resource families have a right to receive known information on each child who is to be placed in the foster home including educational, medical and behavioral information including the strengths and needs of the child.

CPS 3.5, AS 47.14.100

#### NOTICE

Resource families have a right to have notice of a placement change of a child in their home under nonemergency conditions and have a right to challenge a placement change under non-emergency conditions. CPS 2.11, 1.16,AS 47.10.098

#### TRAINING

Resource Families have the right to request training for foster children in their care. An individualize training plan (ITP) will be developed with the foster parent(s). The training plan is designed to strengthen the foster parent's ability to meet the needs of the children in care.

7 AAC 67. 130

#### COMMUNICATION

Resource families can expect regular visits from the child's caseworker to exchange information, plan together, and discuss any concerns about the child.

CPS 3.2.1

### PERMISSIONS

Resource families have the right to sign for permissions for every day events (as long as they don't go against regulations or statute) using a reasonable and prudent parent standard to decide based on the child's age and developmental level about child and youth participation in cultural, extra-curricular, social, and enrichment activities.

CPS 6.5.4, 7 AAC 67.200

#### GRIEVANCE

Resource families have the right to use the grievance procedure established by the Office of Children's Services to make their concerns known without the fear of reprisal.

CPS 1.16AS 47.10.098

#### DISCLOSURE

Resource families moving towards adoption of a foster child have the right to full disclosure information regarding the child before the finalization of the child's adoption.

CPS 3.15.5

#### PLACEMENT

Resource Families have the right to request a change in placement of a child from their home. Resource Families shall provide notice to the child's caseworker at least 14 calendar days in advance when requesting placement change of a child except when the health or safety of a household would be endangered by the child's continued placement.

CPS 3.7.1, 7 AAC 67.150