

Assurances from Applicants/Foster/Adoptive Parents

Check One:

- Initial
- New Placement
- Annual

Foster Child's Name:

Applicants/foster/adoptive parents must initial and sign this agreement containing the following assurances that they and all household members will comply with their roles and responsibilities as discussed with the agency once a child is placed in their care:

_____ I/We will not use any inhumane or corporal punishment on any child placed by the agency. Cruel, inhumane, and inappropriate punishment is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: head shaving or any other dehumanizing or degrading act; deprivation of food or family visits; deprivation of mail; slapping or shaking; the use of handcuffs; a pattern of threats of removal from the home as punishment; use of profanity or any language that the foster parent or adoptive parent knows or should know may ridicule a child; authorizing, directing or asking a child to discipline another child; disciplining a child for a medical or psychological problem over which the child has no control (e.g. bedwetting, stuttering, etc.); denial of communication and visits with family members; demeaning acts designed to embarrass children; denial of shelter, clothing, or personal needs; excessive physical exercise; excessive work tasks; and verbal abuse.

_____ I/We further understand that all foster/adoptive homes are subject to South Carolina laws relating to child abuse and neglect.

_____ I/We will not use any illegal substances, abuse alcohol by consuming it in excess amounts, or abuse legal prescription and nonprescription drugs by consuming them in excess amounts or using them contrary to as indicated.

_____ I/We will not smoke in the family foster home or in the vehicle while transporting foster children. Furthermore, guests will not be allowed to smoke in the family foster home or in any vehicle while transporting children.

_____ I/We will closely supervise the child in foster care when the child is near any swimming pool or body of water. When applicants cannot supervise, they must restrict the child access to swimming pools or bodies of water. The child must never be left to swim alone.

_____ I/We will provide water safety instruction to the child in foster care as appropriate for his or her age and development if the home is adjacent to any body of water or has a swimming pool. Water safety instruction addresses key knowledge and skills on how to be safe around water and does not necessarily mean swimming lessons.

_____ *If applicable*, I/we will maintain the swimming pool in safe condition, including testing and maintaining the chlorine and pH levels as required by the manufacturer's specifications. I/We will lock all entry points when the swimming pool is not in use. I/We will remove or secure any steps or ladders to the swimming pool to make them unusable when the pool is not in use. I/We will set up and maintain wading pools according to the manufacturer's instructions, and empty and store them when not in use.

_____ I/We will coordinate legal and safe transportation to and from health care, therapy, and agency appointments; school; extracurricular activities; social events; and scheduled meetings or visitation with parents, siblings, extended family members, and friends.

_____ I/We will confirm that if a privately-owned vehicle, owned by the applicants, family or friends, is used to transport the child in foster care, it must be inspected (if applicable under state or tribal law), registered, and insured, and meet all applicable state or tribal requirements to be an operable vehicle on the road. The driver will have a valid driver's license. Safety restraints will be used that are appropriate to the child's age, height, and weight. Weapons must not be transported in any vehicle in which the child is riding unless the weapons are made inoperable and inaccessible.

_____ I/We may need to take additional steps for the safety of the child in foster care, depending on the home, the area in which it is located, and the age and any cognitive and behavioral challenges of the child. For example, applicants may be required to child proof their home or place a fence to prevent the child from accessing nearby railroad tracks or another hazard.

_____ I/We will adhere to the reasonable and prudent parent standard as defined and set forth in S.C. Code sections 63-7-20, 63-7-25, and 63-7-2310.

Applicant/Foster/Adoptive Signature: _____ Date: _____

Applicant/Foster/Adoptive Signature: _____ Date: _____