

HEPHZIBAH CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION

Specialized Foster Care -Expectations and Responsibilities

Hephzibah

- * Provide training for special needs. (Journey, parenting strategies, etc.)
- * Provide casework services.
- * Maintain confidential records on the child, family, foster family.
- * Offer training on childhood sexual behaviors, accurate record keeping, confidentiality, court, cultural awareness, etc.
- * Provide individual consultation for foster parent concerns.
- * Provide open, honest, and effective communication.
- * Provide respite services.
- * Attend juvenile court and DCFS proceedings.
- * Advocate and network for appropriate services. (i.e. therapy, medical, educational, etc.)
- * Arrange clinical staffings on family issues.
- * On-call availability for emergency services.
- * Provide ongoing assessments of needs of child and family.
- * Treat foster parents with dignity and respect.
- * Maintain the best interest of the child.

Foster Parents

- * Attend pre-service training and 12 hours of training each year related to caring for youth with special needs.
- * Openness to key placement issues. (i.e. child development, separation and loss, transitions, behavior problems, self-esteem and learning issues)
- * Maintain accurate records on foster children and provide them to the agency when requested.
- * Be willing to provide children with new tools for coping with change and uncertainty.
- * Open, honest, effective communication with child and agency.
- * Commitment to accept the unpredictable challenges of placement.
- * Provide transportation to appointments and participate in sibling and family visitation
- * Attend relevant staffings, including placement stabilization meetings.
- * Provide physical and emotional structure/boundaries for the child. (Consistency, Predictability)
- * Will make life books with the child.
- * Maintain the best interest of the child.

When considering providing this level of care, it is imperative to understand the above criteria before a placement occurs. Remember that consistency, commitment, and communication are key factors in the success of a foster child's placement. Please indicate below that you have read, understood, and accept these requirements.

Sign _____

Date _____

11/08