

South Carolina Department of Social Services
FOSTER PARENT AGREEMENT WITH DSS
REGARDING PLACEMENT OF A CHILD

Neither race, color, nor national origin (RCNO) of a child or prospective caregiver may be considered in the placement selection process for a foster child. Culture may not be used as a proxy for RCNO. Placements may not be delayed or denied on the basis of RCNO of the child or the caregiver(s). Prospective caregivers shall not be denied the opportunity to provide care for a child based on the RCNO of the caregiver or the child.

This Agreement is made on _____ between the _____ Department of
Date County or Regional Office
Social Services herein referred to as the Agency, and _____
Name of Foster Parents

Address of Foster Parents

South Carolina, herein referred to as Foster Parents.

The Agency and the Foster Parents agree that:

- A. The Agency has custody of the child and needs to place the child in a foster home.
- B. Foster Parents desire to temporarily care for a child by providing a home environment for a child.
- C. Foster Parents agree to accept the child for an indefinite period of time.
- D. Foster Parents agree to abide by all foster home licensing regulations.
- E. The Agency shall place _____, a _____ child,
Name of Child Male/Female
born _____ with Foster Parents subject to the restrictions and limitations below:
Date of Birth

Foster Parents shall support and care for the above-named child. The child shall be permitted to enter, leave and enjoy the home of the Foster Parents as though the child were their natural child. The Foster Parents will function as educational advocates for the child and will provide the child with an opportunity for an adequate education. The Agency will provide the foster care board payment to the Foster Parents during the period that the child is in Foster Parents' care.

Foster parents shall care for the child without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion or disability. Foster Parents shall ensure that the foster child is provided with a safe and nurturing environment that supports the child's permanency plan as well as the child's well-being. This includes encouraging and supporting the child's goals, interests, social and school activities. Foster parents shall ensure that the child has access to personal possessions, personal space and privacy with allowance for safety. Foster parents shall allow the child the opportunity to express his/her own opinion and have it treated respectfully. Foster parents shall ensure that the foster care youth age 14 and older is allowed access to his/her personal funds, the youth is informed of the balance of any bank accounts belonging to the youth, and that the youth is not required to pay for his/her own care to include clothing, food, hygiene items, and transportation to education and health services. Foster Parents and the Agency shall support the child in maintaining positive connections with the child's siblings and other significant people including relatives, teachers, friends, and church and community supports.

Foster parents will exercise the reasonable and prudent parent standard set forth in South Carolina law (see S.C. Code § 63-7-20(3), § 63-7-20(24), and § 63-7-25) and in Agency policy in making decisions regarding the day-to-day activities of children in foster care. The Agency shall have access to the home of the Foster Parents at any time the minor child is in the care of Foster Parents. The Foster Parents can consult with the Agency during the child's stay in their home.

Foster Parents will not, without Agency approval, keep any other child except their own, other than on a visiting basis while caring for foster children placed by the Department of Social Services. Foster Parents must discuss plans to take the child on trips, visits, vacations, etc., prior to the actual planned trip (see S.C. Code § 63-7-25). The Agency must continuously be advised as to the child's whereabouts.

Foster Parents can request that the Agency take the child from their home. The Foster Parents will provide the Agency sufficient time to locate another suitable placement. The Agency can remove the child without the Foster Parents' consent in accordance with Foster Care Licensing and Agency Fair Hearing regulations. Regardless of how the child leaves the home, the child will take with him/her all the child's belongings, including what he/she may have acquired while living in the foster home.

If the child becomes legally free for adoption and the Foster Parents apply to adopt the child, the Agency will hold a placement committee to determine the adoptive placement that will be in the child's best interest. The Foster Parent will be advised of the Agency's decision in a timely manner.

South Carolina Department of Social Services Authorized Representative

Date

Foster Parent

Date

Foster Parent

Date