

Practice Alert



Resource Parents and Confidentiality

This Practice Alert is to remind staff of the guidelines and importance of ensuring resource parents understand the aspects of maintaining confidentiality of a child placed in their home. It is imperative that resource parents balance normalcy (via the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard) and sharing information only with those needing this information for business reasons or to assure a safe environment for the child. Posting information on social media sites may be considered part of normalcy, but it is important to note, children should not be identified as foster children and closed groups are not confidential and can still be accessed by others. Sharing information about a foster child with neighbors, extended family, or others without a need to know is a breach of this confidentiality.

The [Foster Parents Bill of Rights](#) states:

Foster parents shall treat all information received from the Children's Division and its contractors about the child and the child's family as confidential. Information necessary for the medical or psychiatric care of the child may be provided to the appropriate practitioners. Foster parents may share information necessary with school personnel in order to secure a safe and appropriate education for the child. Additionally, foster parents shall share information they may learn about the child and the child's family, and concerns that arise in the care of the child, with the caseworker and other members of the child welfare team. Recognizing that placement changes are difficult for children, foster parents shall seek all necessary information, and participate in pre-placement visits whenever possible, before deciding whether to accept a child for placement.

If parties outside these guidelines request information on a child placed in a resource home, the resource parent should contact the child's case manager. Staff should share this Practice Alert with all resource parents.

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