



NORMALCY & PRUDENT PARENT STANDARD

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

H589 – PRUDENT PARENT STANDARD FOR FOSTER PARENTS

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FEDERAL LAW REQUIREMENTS

The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 requires that:

- Child welfare agencies promote normalcy and well-being for children and youth in foster care.
- Child welfare agencies implement a reasonable and prudent parent standard (RPPS) for decisions made by caregivers (foster parents or designated officials for child care institutions, including residential treatment programs or independent living programs).
 - *This standard allows caregivers to make parental decisions that maintain the health, safety, and best interest of the child and also decisions about the child's participation in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities.*
 - *Caregivers need to be trained on the reasonable and prudent parent standard, specifically around the child's participating in age or developmental appropriate activities.*

NORMALCY POLICY AND PRACTICE IMPLEMENTATION

- Development of [Normalcy Practice Guidance](#)
- Development of multiple checklists and tip sheets, including:
 - [Normalcy Activities Checklist](#)
 - [Age-Appropriate Activities and Responsibilities Checklist](#)
 - [Tips for Applying the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard \(RPPS\)](#)
- Development and implementation of [Family Services Policy 75](#) (including caregiver guidelines)
- Revisions to the [Placement Checklist](#) and [Foster Parent Authorization Letter](#) specific to supporting normalcy
- Fall 2017 foster parent foundations training included normalcy and the RPPS
- Statewide discussion groups / trainings with child placing agencies and residential treatment programs

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF H.589

- Define Prudent Parent Standard in Statute
- Protect Foster Parents from liability, should a child in their care become injured as the result of a decision of the foster parent that meets the prudent parent standard.
- At least 37 states have now enacted legislation defining the prudent parent standard.
- The language in H.589 is similar to what many other states have adopted.
- Additional support and protection for foster parents is available through policy and our insurance.

QUESTIONS?

