



Normalcy & Prudent Parent Standard

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SENATE HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

NORMALCY FOR CHILDREN AND
YOUTH
IN FOSTER CARE

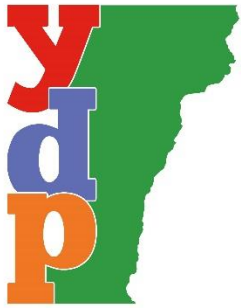
Federal Law Requirements

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 to 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



Youth Development Program

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- Case management for youth ages 14-22 who have experience in the foster care system
- YDP services are provided in coordination with each DCF district to over 500 youth annually
- Youth Development Coordinators (YDCs) partner with youth to help them set goals, explore personal interests, connect with natural supports, and transition to adulthood successfully.
- Financial resources provide flexible funding to support interests and goals of youth who are engaged in the program.
- Extended foster care financially supports former foster parents and other supportive adults to care for youth beyond their 18th birthdays.
- In FY17, YDP approved over \$150,000 in youth investment grants to support youth engaging in activities that support normalcy, enrichment, and relationship development

Questions?

