

## **CODE OF ETHICS FOR FOSTER PARENTS**

### **PREAMBLE**

Foster family care for children is based on the theory that no unit in our society, other than the family, has ever been able to provide the special qualities needed to nurture children to their fullest mental, emotional and spiritual development. If, for a certain period, a family ceased to provide these special qualities, substitute care must be used. It is recognized that, ideally, foster care is temporary in nature. Parents who provide foster family care must have commitment, compassion and faith in the dignity and worth of children, recognize and respect the rights of natural parents, and be willing to work with the child placing agency to develop and carry out a plan of care for the child.

Foster care is a public trust that requires that the practitioners be dedicated to service for the welfare of children, that they utilize a recognized body of knowledge about human beings and their interactions, and that they be committed to gaining knowledge of community resources which promote the well being of all without discrimination.

Each foster parent has an obligation to maintain and improve the practice of fostering, to constantly examine, use, and increase the knowledge upon which fostering is based, and to perform the service of fostering with integrity and competence.

### **PRINCIPLES**

1. I regard as my primary obligation the welfare of the child served.
2. I shall work objectively with the agency in effecting the plan for the child in my care.
3. I hold myself responsible for the quality and extent of the services I perform.
4. I accept the reluctance of the child to discuss his past.
5. I shall keep confidential from the community information pertaining to any child placed in my home.
6. I treat with respect the findings, views, and actions of fellow foster parents, and use the appropriated channels, such as a foster parent organization, to express my opinions.
7. I shall take advantage of available opportunities for education and training designed to upgrade my performance as a foster parent.
8. I respect the worth of all individuals regardless of race, religion, sex, or national ancestry in my capacity as a foster parent.
9. I accept the responsibility to work toward assuring that ethical standards are adhered to by any individual or organization providing foster care services.
10. I shall distinguish clearly in public about my statements and actions as an individual and as a representative of a foster parent organization.
11. I accept responsibility for working toward the creation and maintenance of conditions within the field of foster family care, which enable foster parents to uphold the principles of this code.