

# What Foster Parents Need to Know about

1. **Traveling with a Child in their Care**
2. **Allowing a Child in their Care to Stay Overnight with a Friend**

## **General Guidelines-**

Resource parents should be sure of all of the following information:

- At least one adult (a person over 21 years of age who is responsible for the child) will be in attendance at all times.
- The resource parent has spoken to the adult about the overnight stay.
- The resource parent has concluded that the home is a safe environment for the child.
- The overnight stay does not conflict with any court order or foster care program activity, including but not limited to meetings, therapy sessions, and visitation.
- The trip does not conflict with any court orders prohibiting contact with specific individuals.

## **When Consent is Not Required-**

Resource parents may take children in their care on trips or allow them to have an overnight stay within 100 miles of the District of Columbia for less than 2 nights without obtaining consent from CFSA.

- The resource parent must still notify the child's social worker of the child's location whenever they will be staying overnight away from the foster home.
- If the resource parent does not reach the social worker, the resource parent may leave a voice mail detailing the child's location.

## **Consent is Required under the Following Circumstances-**

- Whenever a child or youth will be traveling more than 100 miles from the District of Columbia
- Whenever the child or youth will be away from the foster home for more than 2 nights

## **To obtain Consent Resource Parents should-**

- Request permission for the child or youth to travel as soon as they
  - start planning a trip or
  - become aware of a trip in which the child would like to participate (i.e., a school, community or religious organization activity)
- Unless it is an emergency, requests to travel should always be made at least 10 business days in advance of the trip.

## **What about Emergencies Requiring Travel or Requiring the Resource Parents to Plan an Overnight Stay for a Child in their Care?**

- Inform the child's social worker of the emergency that requires either travel or an overnight stay as soon as the resource parent becomes aware of the situation.
  - If the social worker is not available, contact the supervisory staff. If staff cannot be reached during non-business hours, contact the CFSA Hotline at (202) 671-7233.
  - The social worker will inform the resource parent within 24 hours if the travel or overnight stay can be approved.
  - If the child or youth would miss a court-ordered activity or if the travel/overnight stay cannot be approved for other reasons, CFSA will make arrangements for the care of the child while the foster parent is away.

## **What about Contract Agency Resource Parents?**

- Resource parents should notify the program director of the child or youth's location whenever they will be away from the foster home and consent of CFSA is not required
- When consent is required, the resource parent shall inform the contract agency staff.
- Contract agency staff will contact their CFSA program monitor if they are unable to obtain parental consent.

For more detailed information, see *administrative issuance* [CFSA-06-3 Overnight Stays](#).