

L.U.C.K.Y.

(Lives Under Construction Kids & You) February 2010

Department of Children's Services
2555 Plymouth Road
Johnson City, TN 37601
(423)854-5311

January Adoptions

David & Holly adopted two little girls
Tommy & Pam adopted a little boy



To Post or Not To Post...That Is The Question!

Our staff had some questions about what was acceptable for resource parents to post on websites such as facebook, myspace, blogs, etc... If we had questions, then we were absolutely certain that you all would have questions! Further clarification is if it feels wrong, do not post it. Yes, it probably is better not to post anything, but we have listed a few guidelines if you do chose to post. Be extremely mindful of who you are allowing to see your page. You may also need to check into your church's website or other group that you or the child belongs to ensure any information or pictures of your foster child is in compliance with these guidelines. Contact your Resource Parent Support Case Manager (RPSCM) with any question. We are here to help.

Ask yourself these questions...

Is your profile marked private?

How would the birth parent react if he/she saw what was on your page/site about their child?

Here are a few guidelines...

- * Profile pictures with foster children are not allowed.
- * Posting information about the child's case details is not allowed, even something as simple as "we are home from a visit" or "Johnny had a visit with his dad today". Or "we received a new addition today."
- * No blogging about anything related to the foster child or child's family.
- * If you do have a family picture on your site, do not label the foster child's name.
- * You may have to have conversations with your children, family, and friends about what they can post about the foster child in your home on their pages/sites.

FOSTER CARE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT CHANGES!!!
TRANSPORTATION GUIDANCE from the
Office of Finance and Program Support Budget Office

"A recent regional fiscal conference call made it clear that there is little, if any, consistency in the interpretation and application of policy 16.8 in the reimbursement of resource parents for extraordinary mileage.

As a preface to an understanding of policy intent, it is important to keep in mind that board rates are based on the USDA calculated cost of raising a child, which include a cost component for transportation.

Having said that the policy provides additional consideration for "extraordinary" transportation one of two ways:

First, in the event the extraordinary transportation is of a recurring nature, then a special circumstances board rate can be considered to provide for the additional recurring cost of transportation.

Second, if the extraordinary transportation cost is of a non-recurring basis (sporadic or infrequently), then mileage reimbursement may be approved.

The intent of policy is to reimburse for mileage in excess of 50 miles one way. This implies the marginal mileage over 50 miles each way is eligible for reimbursement.

EXAMPLE:

If the mileage is 52 miles one way and 52 miles the other, then the resource parent is due reimbursement for 4 miles. Likewise by example, if the mileage is 52 miles one way and 48 miles the other, then the resource parent is due reimbursement for 2 miles. While this may seem incidental to the cost of a hundred mile trip, one must remember that the board rate already includes full transportation cost reimbursement.

Comment: Given the fact that a special circumstance rate is a recurring rate, one would not suspect that mileage reimbursements would ever exceed a special circumstance rate."

If you have any questions about mileage qualifications, please contact your Resource Parent Support Case Manager (RPSCM). Any mileage claim submitted for reimbursement will have to be reviewed by our Fiscal Department to ensure it meets qualifications for reimbursement, and that resource parents are being reimbursed the same across the state.

BOARD PAYMENT CALL-IN DATES

1-800-470-7444

February 3rd & 4th for the dates of January 16th to 31st

February 18th & 19th for the dates of January 1st to 15th

For call-in calendars see: www.state.tn.us/youth/fostercare/fpcalendars.htm

All Families Matter Hotline

1-866-327-9101

(You should receive a response to your call within 24 to 48 hours.)

Remember, please follow the chain of command and try to resolve any issues or concerns in the region first.

Have you tried?

The child's Family Service Worker (FSW)?

Your Resource Parent Support Case Manager (RPSCM)?

The FSW's Team Leader?

Requested a child and family team meeting (CFTM)?

The FSW's Team Coordinator?

Lucretia Sanders, Deputy Regional Administrator?

Sherri Hale, Regional Administrator?



Please visit <http://tennessee.gov/youth/dcsguide.htm>
for any DCS policy.



EMERGENCY
After Hours/On-call #
1-877-54ABUSE



****For emergencies after normal business hours, please use this number.****



CORE Class Schedule

These classes are required for all resource parents in the first and second year following their PATH approval. All resource parents must receive this training.

	Date and Times	Location
Fostering Positive Behavior	THUR 2/18/10 6pm to 9pm	Kingsport DCS Office • 707 North Eastman Rd • Kingsport
	SAT 3/27/10 9am to 12pm	Hawkins County DCS Office • 4017 Highway 66 South, Suite 1 • Rogersville
Positive Discipline	THUR 3/11/10 6pm to 9pm	Carter County DCS • 206 Cherokee Park Dr. Suite 2 • Elizabethton
	TUE 3/16/10 6pm to 9pm	Greene County DCS • 130 Serral Drive • Greeneville
Working with the Education System	TUES 2.9.10 6 pm to 8 pm	Hope Community Church • 4163 Hwy 11W • Rogersville
	SAT 3.6.10 9:30am to 11:30am	Kingsport DCS Office • 707 North Eastman Rd • Kingsport
Parenting the Sexually Abused Child	SAT 2.6.10 9 am to 12 pm	Blountville DCS Office • 2193 Feathers Chapel Rd. • Blountville
Working With Birth Parents	SAT 3/6/10 9am to 12pm	DCS • 2555 Plymouth Road • Johnson City 37601
	TUE 3/23/10 6pm to 9pm	DCS • 2193 Feathers Chapel Rd • Blountville 37617

Elective Class Schedule*

(*Now required per new training policy.)

Engaging & Parenting Teens	SAT 3/6/10 1pm to 3pm	Washington County DCS • 2555 Plymouth Road • Johnson City
Partnership in Action	SAT 2/6/10 1 pm to 3pm	Blountville DCS Office • 2193 Feathers Chapel Rd. • Blountville
Professionalism & Ethics	SAT 3/27/10 1pm to 2:30pm	Hawkins County DCS • 4017 Highway 66 South, Suite 1 • Rogersville

To register yourself please visit our new online training website

www.tnrpt.org or

call (423) 299-KIDS (5437) and leave a message.

CPR/First Aid Class Schedule

This 4 hour awareness class will teach resource parents basic CPR and first aid skills that can sustain or save a life while professional emergency help is on the way. Resource parents will not be certified in CPR or first aid, but will meet the minimum requirements for DCS and will receive a certificate of participation. This class is required for all resource parents. Resource parents must receive this training every two years.

SAT 2.27.10 12 pm to 4 pm **Laughlin Hospital • 1420 Tusculum Blvd • Greeneville**
Please note the above change, due to class size, this was moved to a different location.

TUE 4.06.10 6 pm to 10 pm Blountville DCS Office • 2193 Feathers Chapel Rd • Blountville

WED 5.19.10 6 pm to 10 pm Johnson City DCS Office • 2557 Plymouth Rd • Johnson City



Medication Administration Class Schedule

This 4-hour workshop will provide resource parents the knowledge base to safely and effectively administer medications to children in care. Resource parents will learn of the types of medications the children will likely receive and how to safely administer them. Major topics covered in this workshop range from safe storage, and disposal of medication to common errors in medication administration. This class is required for all resource parents. Resource parents must receive this training every two years.

SAT 2.20.10 12 pm to 4 pm **Laughlin Hospital • 1420 Tusculum Blvd • Greeneville**
Please note the above change, due to class size, this was moved to a different location.

To register yourself please visit our new online training website www.tnrpt.org or call (423) 299-KIDS (5437) and leave a message.

When calling, please be sure to give the names of the people in your household who will be attending, an email address (if you have one), phone numbers and the name, date and location of the class you wish to attend. You will receive a confirmation by phone or email within 2 business days. If you do not, please call again.

Resource Parent Advocate

Jill Thompson

#423-290-8110 or jthompson@tnadvocate.org

Phone Numbers & Locations

Carter County Main Office #423-547-5814

Judy Hatley, Placement Specialist Carter, Unicoi, & Johnson County #423-547-3984 Judy.Hatley@tn.gov
Sheila Woods, RPSCM - Carter & Johnson #423-547-3981 Sheila.Woods@tn.gov

Sullivan County - Blountville Main office #423-279-1460

Karen Keck, Permanency Specialist #423-279-1956 Karen.Keck@tn.gov
Sara Britt, Placement Specialist #423-279-1946 Sara.Britt@tn.gov
Shannon Wood, Permanency Specialist #423-279-1947 Shannon.Wood@tn.gov

Hawkins County Office Main office #423-272-6479

Sandra Voiles, RPSCM - Hawkins & Hancock **ON LEAVE**

Tammy Enlow-Lawson, Placement Specialist #423-272-6479, ext#105 Tammy.Enlow-Lawson@tn.gov

Sullivan County - Kingsport Office Main office #423-857-1220

Erin Culbertson, Placement Specialist #423-857-1224 Erin.Culbertson@tn.gov
Marsha Musick, Permanency Specialist #423-857-1229 Marsha.L.Musick@tn.gov
Vanessa Addington, RPSCM #423-857-1228 Vanessa.Addington@tn.gov

Washington County - Regional Office

Annex Main Office
#423-854-5220

Lora Anderson

Adoption Team Leader
#423-979-5231

Lora.Anderson@tn.gov

Tammy Arrowood, Permanency
Specialist, #423-979-5247

Tammy.Arrowood@tn.gov

Lisa Larimer, Permanency
Specialist #423-979-5246

Lisa.Larimer@tn.gov

Jamie Steele, Kinship Coordinator
#423-979-5273

Jamie.X.Steele@tn.gov

Washington County Office - Johnson City

Main office #423-854-5311

Erin Beese, Resource Parent Support Team Leader
#423-854-5029 Erin.Beese@tn.gov

Patty Buckner, RPSCM - Sullivan
#423-854-5022 Patty.Buckner@tn.gov

Christi Gerlach, RPSCM - Washington & Unicoi
#423-854-5058 Christi.Gerlach@tn.gov

Chris Johnson, Team Coordinator
#423-854-5125 Chris.Johnson@tn.gov

Kristin McKee-Ayers, RPSCM - Washington & Unicoi
#423-854-5023 Kristen.McKee-Ayers@tn.gov

Jennifer New, Placement Specialist
#423-854-5056 Jennifer.New@tn.gov

Scott Overbey, Placement Services Division Team Leader
#423-854-5054 Scott.Overbey@tn.gov

Greene County Office Main office # 423-787-2550

Josh Price, Placement Specialist #423-787-2570 Joshua.Price@tn.gov
Rebecca Fletcher, RPSCM - Greene #423-787-2550 Rebecca.Fletcher@tn.gov
Or Hawkins County Office #423-272-6479, ext#112



“The Waiting Room”



One of the most difficult situations that a Placement Specialist deals with is when a child waiting in the DCS office for a placement. Now, don't get me wrong, all children who need a placement are a priority, but it seems to raise the stakes when the child is in our office. In a lot of cases, it is a teenager who has been on the run. They are tired, worn out, and hungry. Our staff is good to find them a place to curl up and sleep, and we will make a run out for pizza or hamburgers, but our office is no substitute for a good warm bed and a hot meal.

Sometimes the wait for a placement turns into several hours. The older the child it seems the longer the wait. In most cases, we are searching for a resource home who can accept an older teenager. Yes, the teenager may have some issues they are dealing with. They may have experimented with drugs, they may be truant from school, and their routine language may be littered with four letter words. This makes them a challenge, but it does not make them dangerous.

So, as you read this newsletter, please consider how you as a resource parent can serve these older teens....maybe you can't. But, maybe you know another family in your neighborhood or at church they could be a good resource home for a teenager and you can help us recruit them.

One last note: We don't say it often enough - We, the DCS staff, appreciate our foster parents tremendously. Our job is to plan and manage for the child's care - your role is being a family....a role which is vitally important to these kids in troubled situations.

Thank you,
Scott Overbey, Team Leader
Northeast DCS Placement Team

Taking a child from another county....what does this mean for you?

As you know, resource parents are encouraged to be as much a part of a child & family's team as possible. Placement Specialists try to place children within their home county, but sometimes it is not possible. So when you accept a child from another county, please be mindful that it will mean:

- The child's worker (FSW) will be in the child's home county's office.
- Child & Family Team Meetings (CFTM's) will be held within the child's home county.
- Resource parents will need to assist with transportation.
- Court hearings & Foster Care Review Board meetings will take place in the child's home county.
- Medical appointments might be located within the child's home county.
- Possible travel to that county several times a week.

If the distance could pose an issue with scheduling appointments, think about it before accepting a placement out of your county.



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DCS offices will be closed on Monday, February 15th



in observance of

SAVE THE DATE: FOSTER PARENT SPRING CONFERENCE
FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2010
BOONES CREEK CHRISTIAN CHURCH

