



The Caregiver Role and Responsibilities

Preservice

Learner Guide

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Notes:

Learning Objectives

- Identify the primary members of the child protection team and their roles
- Describe your responsibilities to the agency
- Describe your responsibilities to the child
- Describe your responsibilities to the primary family
- Describe your responsibilities to yourself

Introduction

This is a **broad overview** of some of your key responsibilities. Future courses will discuss your responsibilities in depth.

It is your right to receive **clear expectations** that relate to your role and responsibilities as well as access to a staff member you can ask questions to during and after work hours.

Take a moment to consider **how you are feeling** about taking on the responsibilities of a foster caregiver.

The Team

The child is at the center of the team. You are part of the team. Additional team members include the primary family, kin, agency staff, and professionals from other systems.

Your role on the team is defined by state rules, agency policies, and the Resource Family Bill of Rights.



Notes:

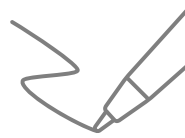
Your Responsibilities Towards the Caseworker/Agency

You will have **essential information** to provide the agency as you will be the most intimately and consistently connected to the child.

You will be expected to support the **Family Case Plan** and the child's permanency plan.

Reflect on your takeaways from *A Day in the Life of a Child Protection Caseworker*. What did you see or hear that surprised you? What was your biggest lesson learned?

Take a moment to reflect on the following questions after you complete the "call back" activity.



What criteria did you use to decide who to call back and who could wait?

How did you feel while you were making those decisions?

How do you think each person felt about the urgency of their own requests?

Notes:

Children in care are entitled to participate in age-appropriate activities. This is called **normalcy**. You will use the **Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard** to decide whether a child can engage in an activity.

What surprised you when reading what youth say about their needs?

To be an **effective advocate**, you need to know your rights and the child’s rights, understand the system, effectively document and communicate needs, and use negotiation skills.

As a foster parent, you are **mandated reporter**. You must report any suspicions of maltreatment to the agency hotline.

How do you feel about being a mandated reporter?



Notes:

Resources

State foster care rules:

<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/chapter-5101:2-7>

State adoption rules:

<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/chapter-5101:2-48>

Resource Family Bill of Rights:

<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5101:2-5-35>

Right to be Heard toolkit:

<https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/docs/ICS/CFC/resources/caregiverNotice/caregiver.pdf>

Respecting the Confidentiality of Children in Care:

<https://wifostercareandadoption.org/library-assets/respecting-confidentiality-children-care-families/>

FCCS' Mandated Reporter Guide:

<https://childrenservices.franklincountyohio.gov/assets/pdf/brochures/reporting-abuse.pdf>

Mental Health Considerations for Foster Parents:

<https://www.verywellmind.com/foster-parenting-mental-health-considerations-5219767>

Educational Advocacy: Wrightslaw.com

Mental Health Advocacy: Onoursleeves.org

Disability Advocacy: Disabilityrightsohio.org