

Central Connections



2001 Vol. 1

For Heart of Illinois Foster Parents

Managing School Consents

Since foster parents are not legal guardians of the children in their care, it can be difficult to decipher when and what foster parents can sign regarding school activities and information. Below are some of the common educational circumstances and guidelines for signatures and notification.

Foster Parents have the authority to:

Obtain school records for non-special education youth: For children in special education, the foster parent and the caseworker can obtain records. Authority to obtain school records for residential or Department of Correction children is granted to the educational surrogate.

Pick up report cards: Foster parents and caseworkers can pick up report cards. The educational surrogate can pick them up for wards in residential and Department of Corrections cases.

Consent for in-state field trips and travel: Foster parents can sign permission slips.

Consent to administer prescription, non-psychotropic medications at school: Foster parents can give consent. Note: notification must also be sent to the Field Office supervisor/physician.

Consent for Driver's Education Permit: Foster parents can sign, but must also notify the caseworker and supervisor.

DCFS must be contacted for permission to:

Consent for out-of-state field trips and travel: Notify an authorized agent of the Department's Guardianship Administrator.

Consent for out-of-country travel: Notify an authorized agent and receive local judicial approval.

Participate in athletics: Requires signature of an authorized agent of the Department's Guardianship Administrator.

Consent for release of records: Requires signature of an authorized agent of the Department's Guardianship Administrator except for a ward who is 18 years of age or older.

Decisions in disciplinary actions involving suspension or expulsion: Requires signature of an authorized agent of the Guardianship Administrator at the local DCFS field office.

Media Release: Notify the authorized agent of the day at the DCFS local Field Office. (Note: ample lead-time is needed for consent from Office of Communications as no blanket consents can be signed.)



Schools Must Provide Notification When:

The child is sent home for an illness: Notify foster parent.

The child is sent home for discipline issues: Notify foster parent and caseworker.

If the child runs away from school: Notify foster parent and caseworker/supervisor.

Taking disciplinary action not involving suspension or expulsion: Notify foster parent and caseworker; decision-making power is granted to the caseworker.

Taking disciplinary action involving suspension and/or expulsion: Notice is to be faxed to the authorized agent at the local DCFS field office.

Fostering Sexually Aggressive Youth:

Questions and Answers



When a child is being sexual, it is hard to know if the behavior is part of a normal development stage or a sign of a problem. The DCFS Sexually Aggressive Children and Youth (SACY) program provides consultation and assessment for sexual behavioral issues. The program also helps develop protective plans to manage the behavior of children who have demonstrated sexually aggressive behavior toward others.

Dick Winkler, the Central Region's SACY Coordinator, answers some commonly asked questions about fostering sexually aggressive youth.

Q: What advice would you give foster parents considering taking SACY Wards?

A: I would advise the foster parent to realistically look at how that child can be supervised in their home. It would be a disservice to accept the child when adequate supervision could not be provided. I also believe the foster parent is a critical member of the treatment team. They have a lot of information regarding this child's behaviors. I would encourage foster parents to actively participate in the child's treatment.

Q: If I get a call to place a SACY ward in my home, do they bring the SACY protective plan for the child with them?

A: The plan should be a mutual agreement. The plan needs to meet the supervision needs of the ward. But, it must be realistic in terms of the supervision the foster parent can provide. The SACY plan needs to be signed by all parties involved.



Q: Can my neighbor baby-sit a foster child with a SACY plan?

A: Your neighbor can baby-sit as long as they agree to provide the supervision needed.

IMPORTANT: The child has a right to confidentiality. You will need to talk with the child's case manager and decide how much the babysitter needs to know, and the DCFS guardian would need to sign a consent to release any information to them. The babysitter would also need a CANTS and LEAD check done. Also keep in mind only a licensed foster home may do respite.

Q: How much does the school need to know?

A: This needs to be discussed and decided among team members and done on an individual basis. You first need to consider the environment and the age of the child. You also need to look at victim access. Will this child be around children younger than them? For instance, if the child is in 6th grade, the child may be the oldest in the school. If the child is in 9th grade all the children in school are at the same age or older.

Q: How long is the SACY safety plan in effect?

A: The protective plan is in effect until such time as a clinical staffing is convened and it is determined that it is no longer necessary.

There are 7 different agencies in Central Region that provide out-patient services for sexually aggressive children and youth:

Peoria

Lutheran Social Services

Springfield

Clinical Systems

Moline

Family Resources in Moline

Bloomington

ABC Counseling and Family Services

Champaign

Cunningham Children's Home

Ottawa

Youth Service Bureau

Mantoon

Coles County Mental Health

If you have any questions regarding a SACY ward in your home, Dick Winkler will be happy to help. His number is (309) 693-5400.

Introducing Deborah Kennedy

Regional Administrator
Central Region

Effective May 1, 2000, Deborah Kennedy became the Regional Administrator for the DCFS Central Region. Kennedy not only covers the 50 county region that Don Vacca covered, but also is responsible for the Kankakee Office.

DCFS Director Jess McDonald has asked Kennedy to pilot new programs in the Central Region. The Rock Island field office, the Springfield field office, the Cambridge field office and the Princeton field office are Paired Team Models. This approach links child protection investigative staff with case workers together on a team to ensure better coordination and follow-up services.



Deborah Kennedy started working for DCFS in February 1985 in the Macomb Office as a Social Worker I. She was promoted to Child Welfare Specialist II and worked in the Canton Office. She remained in follow-up until September of 1990, when she was promoted to a supervisor in Rock Island. She was a Child Protection Supervisor until October of 1996. Kennedy was promoted to Child Protection Manager and covered Peoria sub-region until 1998. She was Assistant to the Deputy Director of Child Protection until May 2000 when she became Central Region's Administrator.

Educational Advocacy Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours

It is mandatory for one foster parent in each family to attend Educational Advocacy Training in order to be licensed or re-licensed. Educational Advocacy Training is offered following each Foster PRIDE/Adopt PRIDE training and many additional times. This six hour course covers information foster parents need to know so that they can advocate for their foster children's educational rights and needs.

Champaign Area 888-467-6065

BLOOMINGTON	<i>The Baby Fold</i>
Feb. 5 & 12 (Mon)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
March 12 & 19 (Mon)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
CHAMPAIGN	<i>Site to be Announced</i>
Jan. 20 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
March 17 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
CHARLESTON	<i>Site to be Announced</i>
March 27 & April 3 (Tues)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
DANVILLE	<i>Site to be Announced</i>
March 22 & 29 (Thurs)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
DECATUR	<i>Site to be Announced</i>
March 14 & 21 (Wed)	6:30-9:30 p.m.

Springfield Area 888-817-1825

JACKSONVILLE	<i>Passavant Area Hospital</i>
March 31 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
LITCHFIELD	<i>Lincoln Land Comm. College</i>
Jan. 8 & 15 (Mon)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
QUINCY	<i>Days Inn</i>
Feb. 27 & March 2 (Tues/Fri)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
SPRINGFIELD	<i>Lincoln Land Comm. College</i>
March 31 (Sat)	6:30-9:30 p.m.
TAYLORVILLE	<i>Site to be Announced</i>
March 22 & 29 (Thurs)	6:30-9:30 p.m.

Peoria Area 888-507-7433

CANTON	<i>SITE TO BE ANNOUNCED</i>
Feb. 3 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
	<i>Parlin-Ingersoll Library</i>
March 13 & 20 (Tues)	6:00-9:00 p.m.
GALESBURG	<i>Salvation Army</i>
Jan. 27 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
March 13 & 20 (Tues)	6:00-9:00 p.m.
LASALLE/OTTAWA	<i>First American Title Insurance Co.</i>
March 26 & April 2 (Mon)	6:00-9:00 p.m.
Jan. 11 & 18 (Thurs)	6:00-9:00 p.m.
MACOMB	<i>Western Illinois University</i>
Feb. 20 & 27 (Tues)	6:00-9:00 p.m.
PEORIA	<i>Site to be Announced</i>
Feb. 6 & 13 (Tues)	6:00-9:00 p.m.
March 24 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
	<i>LSSI</i>
Jan. 8 & 22 (Mon)	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
	<i>Children's Home</i>
Jan. 18 & 25 (Thurs)	6:00-9:00 p.m.
	<i>Catholic Social Services</i>
Feb. 24 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
QUAD CITIES	<i>Black Hawk College Outreach</i>
Jan. 29 & Feb. 5 (Mon)	6:00-9:00 p.m.
Feb. 24 (Sat)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
March 27 & April 3 (Tues)	6:00-9:00 p.m.



Central Region Training Calendar

FosterPRIDE In-Service Training

All licensed foster parents and adoptive parents are welcome to attend any or all of the PRIDE In-Service Training offerings to enhance their skills and meet yearly training requirements.

Module 1 - *The Foundation for Meeting the Developmental Needs of Children*
(Four 3-hour sessions = 12 training hours)

Module 2 - *Using Discipline to Protect and Nurture*
(Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

Module 3 - *Addressing Developmental Issues Related to Sexuality* (One 3-hour session = 3 training hours)

Module 4 - *Responding to the Signs and Symptoms of Sexual Abuse* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

Module 5 - *Supporting Relationships Between Children and Their Families* (Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

Module 6 - *Working as a Professional Team Member*
(Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

Module 7 - *Promoting Children's Personal and Cultural Identity* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

Module 8 - *Promoting Permanency Outcomes*
(Three 3-hour sessions = 9 training hours)

Module 9 - *Managing the Impact of Placement on Your Family* (Two 3-hour sessions = 6 training hours)

Module 10 - *Understanding the Effects of Chemical Dependency on Children & Families*
(Five 3-hour sessions = 15 training hours)

Champaign Area 888-467-6065

	Module
CHAMPAIGN - Site to be Announced Feb. 7, 14 & 21 (Wed) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	2
CHARLESTON - Site to be Announced Jan. 11, 18, 25 & Feb. 1 & 8 (Thurs) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	10

Other In-Service Trainings

Realities of Transracial Adoption
DANVILLE - Site to be Announced
Feb. 17 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Ouch! Practical Care of Black Hair & Skin
BLOOMINGTON - Site to be Announced
Feb. 12 & 19 (Mon) 6:30-9:30 p.m.

CHAMPAIGN - Site to be Announced
March 8 & 15 (Thurs) 6:30-9:30 p.m.

DECATUR - Site to be Announced
Jan. 15 & 22 (Mon) 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Springfield Area 888-817-1825

	Module
BEARDSTOWN - Site to be Announced March 5, 12 & 19 (Mon) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	6
JACKSONVILLE - Passavant Hospital Feb. 9, 16 & 23 (Fri) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	5
LINCOLN - A. Lincoln Memorial Hospital Feb. 17 & 24 & March 3 & 10 (Sat) 1:00-4:00 p.m.	1
LITCHFIELD - Lincoln Land Comm. College Jan. 23, 30 & Feb. 6, 13 & 20 (Tues) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	10
March 1 & 8 (Thurs) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	7
QUINCY - Days Inn Feb. 16, 23 & March 2 (Fri) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	5
Jan. 25 & Feb. 1 (Thurs) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	9
SPRINGFIELD - Lincoln Land Comm. College Jan. 20, 27 & Feb. 3 (Sat) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	2
Jan. 29 & Feb. 5 (Mon) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	7
Feb. 20 & 27 (Tues) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	9
March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 (Fri) 6:30-9:30 p.m.	10
March 31 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	7

TAYLORVILLE - County Market
Feb. 16, 23 & March 2 (Fri) 6:30-9:30 p.m.



Peoria Area 888-507-7433

	Module
CANTON - Site to be Announced Feb. 8, 15, 22 & March 1 (Thurs) 6:00-9:00 p.m.	1
GALESBURG - Salvation Army Feb. 1 (Thurs) 6:00-9:00 p.m.	3
Feb. 8 & 15 (Thurs) 6:00-9:00 p.m.	4
LASALLE/OTTAWA - First American Title Ins. Co. March 1, 8, 15 (Thurs) 6:00-9:00 p.m.	2
MACOMB - Western Illinois University Jan. 25 & Feb. 1, 8, 15 & 22 (Thurs) 6:00-9:00 p.m.	10
QUAD CITIES - Blackhawk College Feb. 14, 21 & 28 (Wed) 6:00-9:00 p.m.	2
PEORIA - Site to be Announced Jan. 17, 24, 31 & Feb. 7 (Wed) 6:00-9:00 p.m.	1
Feb. 20 (Tues) 6:00-9:00 p.m.	3
Feb. 27 & March 6 (Tues) 6:00-9:00 p.m.	4

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Central Connections

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Call with foster parent association news and schedules of local training, features on foster families and community members working for children, photos and news articles and supports all foster families can use.

Pre-registration is required for all classes!
Call the number listed for your area.