



Newsletter

February 2016

A Publication of the Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association

TEAM PLAYERS

FOSTER PARENTS

CHILDREN

ADOPTIVE PARENTS

KINSHIP PARENTS

BIO-FAMILY

DHR





A message from the President

Hope everyone reading this has had a good Christmas and New Year. It has been a very busy time for all of us at AFAPA. Many of us have been attending GPS panel nights and week 8 GPS nights, attending local foster parent association meetings, and our advocates have been attending meetings with foster parents all over the state as part of their support system.

We have invited many national speakers to our annual conference May 5th, 6th, and 7th at Shocco Springs. We are looking forward to seeing you all there. There will also be many great in state speakers from State DHR and APAC.

The Alabama legislature is now in session and there will be many bills affecting the foster care community. Please take the time to keep up with these bills and contact your Representative or Senator to voice your opinion. You can see what bills are being considered at the website www.alisondb.legislature.state.al.us

The AFAPA Advocacy program has been helping many foster families. Our advocates have been called to assist in many different ways. Most of them have been called to attend ISP meetings with foster parents. There have been several Conflicts written by foster parents and most have been settled at the local level. If you need assistance don't hesitate to call for help.

AFAPA is looking for volunteers. We need people who would love to help with the newsletter, Facebook page, and the AFAPA web site. You might be asked to Chair the AFAPA Communications Committee and others would be on the committee. Please contact me if you are interested in helping in anyway.

Please visit our website at www.afapa.org and visit us on Facebook Alabama Foster Parents.

I hope many of you take advantage of the training opportunities AFAPA offers throughout the year.

Please read and enjoy this issue of our newsletter. If you know a foster parent who is not receiving this let me know and it will be available online at www.afapa.org.

There have been many cases where homes were closed and children moved because of foster parents posting information about children on Facebook. Our advice is don't do it. Don't post pictures don't post information about foster children or pre-adoptive children. Don't post any reference to their biological family. It is not worth the risk to them or your family.

Buddy Hooper / *President AFAPA*

POLICY REGARDING USING SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITES

Posting of Foster Child Images
to Social Networking Websites
by Foster Parents/Adoptive Resources

The Department has the responsibility to insure the safety and privacy of children in the Department's custody is not compromised. Minimum Standards for Foster Family Homes state each foster parent is to "maintain the confidentiality of information about children and their families." The standards further state foster parents are to "only use or disclose confidential information concerning children with authorization by the approving agency." Pursuant to Minimum Standards which establish the Department's obligation to maintain the confidentiality of children in the Department's custody; foster parents/adoptive resources shall not post photographs of foster children to social networking websites such as Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, etc.



MEET KEISHARIA



Keisharia, born March 2002 is a pretty, sweet, and very outgoing young lady. She is friendly and social, always smiling and has a good sense of humor. Keisharia is very “girly” and likes to have her hair done and takes pride in her appearance. Keisharia needs an active family who enjoys participating in activities. Keisharia enjoys shopping and is a talented praise dancer. Her favorite

restaurant is Chili’s. She also loves Chinese food and volleyball. Keisharia’s ideal family would be a single mom who is African American, with no other children; however, would be open to a married couple with another teen female, or a toddler. She loves to spend one-on-one time with people.

Photograph provided by www.heartgalleryalabama.com

On any given day in Alabama there are approximately 5000 children in foster care. There are more than 50,000 children in Alabama being cared for by their grandparents. Currently there are 238 children in foster care who are available for adoption with no identified resource. There are 162 children who are in the process of being adopted by foster parents.

FOSTER PARENT/ADOPTIVE RESOURCE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

Foster/adoptive parents can be reimbursed for mileage costs incurred in transporting foster children in situations that eliminate the necessity of worker travel (e.g., transporting a child for parental visitation, to court hearings, out of town doctor’s visits or other medical appointments, etc.). If a foster/adoptive parent is transporting more than one child at the same time and to the same location, mileage can only be submitted for one child. Routine everyday transportation is considered as “ordinary parental duties” and may not be considered or filed for reimbursement (i.e. school, daycare, local extra curricular activities, local doctor’s visits, etc.). Local travel is within the county boundary. Local funds may not be used for foster parent/adoptive resource mileage reimbursement or for transportation costs (e.g., issuing a gasoline voucher to the foster parent/adoptive resource). While using foster/adoptive parents to transport children can be helpful, there are times when it is not appropriate, for example, placement of a child into a new foster/adoptive home. Per diem can also be paid to foster/adoptive parents who transport children outside their home county and are away from their home over six hours.

For securing reimbursement for agency approved travel by foster/adoptive parents, complete travel forms for foster/adoptive parents in the same manner as other travel forms submitted by the County Department (DHR-FD-1147, In-State Travel Expense Voucher). The foster/adoptive parent’s official base is the foster/adoptive parent’s hometown. Use the community name as official base for rural residents. Under the Prog/Cost Center Name block on the travel statement, fill in the county name and the words “Foster Parent.” For regular foster/adoptive parent travel, use the following codes, ORG:026 SUB-ORG: County location number, OBJT: 301 and RPT-CTG: 0154. Foster/adoptive parents traveling to meetings on the Department’s approved training calendar may claim mileage and per diem using the codes provided at the training meeting.

C. Board Payment Use

Counties often need to know how the board payments are to be used to meet a child’s needs. Board payments vary according to the age of a child and the core rate does not include difficulty-of-care payments. The maximum monthly core board payment should be used according to the following breakdown:

• Room and Board	85 %
• Clothing	7.5%
• Medicine Chest Supplies	2 %
• Incidentals	5.5%

These percentages are used as a guide and may vary according to a child’s specific needs.

Note: Incidentals include purchases for a child such as school supplies, movie tickets, etc.

Approximate Board payment rates

• 0-2 years	\$462.78
• 3-5 years	\$476.69
• 6-12 years	\$488.46
• 13 + years	\$501.30

QUALIFY FOR ADOPTION SUBSIDY

A. Assessing Appropriateness of Adoption Subsidy

In order to qualify for adoption subsidy, **children must meet all four (4) of the following criteria.**

1. The Agency/Department must have determined and documented that a child cannot or should not be returned to the home of his parents. For the Department, this is determined through the ISP process and before the permanency goal of adoption is agreed upon. In most cases, the termination of parental rights is the final step in meeting this requirement. Refer to Termination of Parental Rights, Section II and III of the *Adoption Policies and Procedures* for discussion on the criteria for termination of parental rights. Section III of the *Adoption Policies and Procedures* is a discussion of “relinquishments” and addresses birth parents’ decision regarding relinquishment and the Department’s preferred method of terminating parental rights in relinquishment situations prior to pursuing adoption.
2. Children must be determined as having special needs. Adoption subsidy is predicated on the belief that children with special needs require more than ordinary parental duties from adoptive parents; that children with special needs usually incur extra expenses; and that parenting children with special needs is more challenging than parenting children without special needs.

The child’s worker must determine that the child being placed for adoption has special needs and there are special circumstances that make adoption unlikely without a subsidy. The child has a specific factor or condition because of which it is reasonable to conclude that the child cannot be placed with adoptive parents without providing adoption subsidy or medical assistance under Medicaid. One (1) or more of the following conditions must exist for a child to be determined as having special needs. [Code of Alabama §26-10-22 (4)]
 - a. Chronic physical or mental disability must have been documented by a medical professional. Normal childhood illnesses (e.g., recurring ear infections in a toddler or allergies) do not meet this criterion. [Code of Alabama 1975 §26-10-22 91)]
 - b. The child has a known emotional/behavioral issue that requires on-going treatment and that has been documented by a mental health professional. Examples include, but are not limited to, children with a diagnosis of oppositional-defiant disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder. [Code of Alabama 1975 §26-10-22 (2)]
 - c. The child has known and documented factors that place the child at risk of developing a physical or mental disability at a future time. At the time of placement, the child may not have a documented diagnosis or show any signs of a physical or mental disability. Nonetheless, there are known and documented factors, which are captured in the non-identifying background summary, that place the child at high risk for developing such conditions. For example, there may have been prenatal exposure to drugs or exposure at birth, but all medical records, at the time of adoptive placement, indicate the child is functioning, mentally and developmentally, at age appropriate levels. There is a risk that the effects of a particular drug found at delivery will manifest itself in a future medical, emotional/behavioral or developmental problem. Money payment is deferred until the onset of symptoms, but the adoption subsidy agreement must be signed and in effect at the time of placement or prior to the final decree of adoption. [Code of Alabama 1975 §26-10-22 (3)]
 - d. Children who are five (5) years of age or older.
 - e. The child is a member of a sibling group of two (2) or more being placed for adoption in the same home at the same time.
 - f. A child has racial or ethnic factors that make it unlikely that the child will be adopted without a subsidy. Documentation of how the child’s racial or ethnic factors prohibit him/her from being adopted without subsidy must be submitted to the Office of Adoption and concurrence received from the Office of Adoption prior to entering into any adoption subsidy agreement based on this criterion. Race and ethnicity includes, but is not limited to, African American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian, or other heritage which may prevent a child from being adopted. [Code of Alabama 1975 §26-10-22 (12)]
3. In most cases, at the time of initiation of adoption proceedings, a child should be in the care or custody of the Department or a public or private child placement agency through
 - a voluntary placement agreement;
 - a voluntary relinquishment; or

- an involuntary removal of the child from the home in accordance with a judicial determination that remaining in the home would be contrary to the welfare of the child.

The term “care” refers to the responsibility vested in the Department or public or private agency with such responsibility encompassing the planning provided by the Department or agency when the child has a permanency goal of adoption. Refer to Section V (A) in this policy for a discussion on dissolved adoptions.

4. Reasonable efforts must be made to locate an adoptive resource for a child without benefit of an adoption subsidy or medical assistance under Medicaid, except where it would be contrary to the child’s best interests because of the existence of significant emotional ties with the prospective adoptive parents while in the care of these parents as a foster care child. In cases involving foster parents, where there is evidence to support the existence of potential detriment to the child by severing emotional ties with the foster parents who are prospective adoptive parents, no evidence is necessary that reasonable efforts have been made to place the child without subsidy. In such situations, the ISP team should determine that it is in the child’s best interest to remain in a home which could not be an adoption resource without an adoption subsidy and medical assistance. Reasonable efforts to locate adoptive parents who can accept the child without a subsidy are not required for foster parent adoptions when there are significant emotional ties that make it in the child’s best interest to remain in the foster/adoptive home. [Code of Alabama 1975 §26-10-24 (1) (2); Social Security Act §473(c)(1)(B)]

When the Department has placement responsibility for a child with a permanency goal of “adoption with an unidentified resource”, it is necessary to register children with local, regional and national adoption exchanges; publicize the need for adoptive homes in general and for specific children; and make referrals to specialized public or private agencies. For additional information, refer to Section V, Termination Of Parental Rights, *Adoption Policies and Procedures*.

MEET JERRELL



Jerrell, born June 2007 is a joyful little boy. He receives special education services to help him succeed in school. Jerrell prefers to play outside. Jerrell enjoys playing basketball on a local community league. He especially likes to ride his scooter. He also enjoys playing video games. He tends to play by himself rather than with his peers. He would like to be a puppy because they make great pets and get lots of hugs. His favorite food is pizza and his favorite restaurant is Pizza Hut. Jerrell does well with authority and has very few behavior issues. Jerrell would thrive in a forever family which he describes as a “forever home with a daddy and a momma.”

Photograph provided by www.heartgalleryalabama.com

MEET JORDAN

Jordan, born May 2002 enjoys listening to music, shopping, painting her fingernails, and makeup. She is very outgoing and an outspoken child. She loves all things fashion, and she often picks very unique statement pieces to incorporate within her wardrobe. Jordan has a wonderful sense of humor and makes friends easily.



She likes to make others smile and laugh. Jordan sometimes struggles to maintain positive behaviors and relationships. She recognizes that her behaviors are sometimes negative, and she is working on improving this. She has expressed that she would like a family who enjoys going places and doing fun activities. Jordan enjoys experiencing new places and meeting new people. Jordan would best benefit from a two parent home with or without other children.

Photograph provided by www.heartgalleryalabama.com

Dear Friends of Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association

Charity begins on the golf course at the Regions Tradition. You have the opportunity to support the AFAPA Scholarship Program for Foster & Adoptive youth by participating in the Birdies for Charity program.

Birdies for Charity is a fundraising program through the Regions Tradition that is designed to give charities the opportunity to generate contributions for their organization. Through this program, AFAPA will receive 100% of the donations generated on its behalf! Simply make a flat donation of \$20 or more, or make a pledge of \$0.05 or more per birdie. It is expected that approximately 900 birdies will be made by the Champions Tour players at the 2015 Regions Tradition. Why is your donation important? All of the participating charities will have the opportunity to receive additional funds by having their donations matched by Regions Tradition thanks to the Matching Funds Sponsor, SouthWest Water Company.

To create additional excitement, the Regions Tradition is giving you the chance to "Guess the Birdies" that will be made during the tournament by the Champions Tour Players! The donors who guess the correct amount of birdies are entered into a drawing to win \$2,500!

Please help us reach our goal by making a donation to the Alabama Foster and Adoptive Parent Association through the Birdies for Charity program! To make a donation please go online and donate at www.regionstradition.com. The last day to submit your donation is Friday, June 10, 2016. Thank you in advance for your support. You can find the direct link on our facebook page Alabama Foster and Adoptive Parent Association. If you prefer to send a check please make it out to PGA Tours Charities, Inc. Send to AFAPA 1091 County Road 1659 Cullman, AL 35058.

Sincerely,

William Hooper
President of the Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association



Grand Prize

A correct guess could win the
Grand prize:

\$2,500

Weekly Give-A-Ways

Each donor will be entered into a weekly drawing for prizes beginning in December, 2015.

Prizes include:

Nick Saban autographed football
2016 **Iron Bowl** Tickets
Regions Tradition VIP tickets
Gary Player autographed item
Bo Jackson autographed baseball
2016 **SEC Baseball** Championship tickets
Deontay Wilder autographed glove
2016 **Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama** tickets
Davis Love III autographed hat
Gift Certificates and many other great prizes



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Celebrating Foster Care and Adoption

AFAPA ADVOCATES

Over the past 10 years AFAPA in collaboration with SDHR have conducted training sessions for AFAPA advocates. These are volunteers who are here to assist foster and adoptive parents with questions and issues they may have working within the foster care system. Advocates have had training in several key SDHR policies and some Federal Policies so they can be better prepared to help when the need arises. The following is what is expected from an AFAPA Advocate.

- To be familiar with DHR Policy on Child Protective Services and the CAN investigative process.
- To be versed in Alabama adoption policy and the Adoption and Safe Families Act.
- To be able to assist parents in obtaining information related to their voiced concerns.
- To empower parents to resolve their problems effectively.
- To assist parents in interactions with DHR staff and to acquire information.
- To complete all Advocate paperwork and maintain records and to forward paperwork to Chair of AFAPA Advocacy committee.
- To meet with County Directors to share with them parent concerns and how they have been addressed.
- To be aware of all conflicts filed across the region and to be familiar with all aspects of the conflict procedure.
- To be knowledgeable of all aspects of the Foster Parent Bill of Rights and to be able to train foster parents in FPBR.
- To be an objective listener and to assist parents in problem exploration and resolution.
- To be available to parents in the assigned region via phone or email.

**To maintain confidentiality
at all times.**

MEET HUNTER

Hunter, born March 2006 is an active and outgoing child. Hunter thrives on attention and affection from others, especially adult figures. He enjoys outside activities including sports, riding his bike and playing video games. Hunter loves Chinese food and wants to go into the military when he grows up. Hunter likes to be involved in extracurricular activities and would best benefit in



an active two parent home. Hunter needs assistance with staying on task and focusing as he is easily distracted. He enjoys attending church where he participates in various activities. Hunter enjoys school and is on grade level. Hunter has a sociable personality and easily makes friends. Hunter needs a two parent family with no other children. He needs a family who is patient and willing to maintain his therapy and medications in order to help his attention deficit and impulsively. Hunter desires a forever home that will be committed to him and love him unconditionally.

Photograph provided by www.heartgalleryalabama.com

MEET DEMARCUS



Demarcus, born June 1999 is very soft spoken. He will normally only speak when spoken to, but he will open up once he trusts you. He enjoys sports such as basketball and football. When he is not playing sports, he likes to draw and play videos. He wishes to visit Washington D.C. and see the White House. He also loves Olive Garden.

Demarcus enjoys ushering at church and his favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. He does well in school, but struggles in math. He receives special education services to help him succeed in math. He is working hard on his grades, and if he continues he will test out of his IEP. Demarcus is receiving counseling weekly which he will need to continue. He has a desire to play in the NFL after he graduates college or join the Marines. Demarcus would like to maintain contact with his younger brother.

Photograph provided by www.heartgalleryalabama.com

You are invited to attend the Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association annual conference at Shocco Springs Conference Center May 5th, 6th, and 7th, 2016

FOSTER, ADOPTIVE, AND KINSHIP PARENTS TEAM WORK

You can register by calling Shocco Springs 1-800-280-1105 or visit the www.afapa.org website and click on link to register online.

Registration cost is \$35 per person and includes 2 nights and 3 days including meals. You can stay Wednesday and Thursday night or Thursday night and Friday night. If you choose to stay 3 nights you are responsible for the extra night. If you require a private room that is you are only one in room the charge is extra \$20 per night. If you have any questions about charges feel free to call Shocco Springs at 800-280-1105. Everyone spending the night must be a registered guest including children. You may bring children but you must have a child care provider to take care of children while you are in workshops. Children are not allowed in workshops.

1. You will receive a Training Certificate with a list of classes on back. Be sure you have the class you attend stamped by one of the Workshop Monitors. Your Certificate must have your name on the front of it before it can be Stamped.
2. In order to receive training hours you must not be more than 10 - min. late for a class or leave before the class is over.
3. Be sure you sign the training data sheet at the registration table. There is a table for Foster Parents and a Separate table for those receiving CEU's. Be sure to put your address on the sheet. Sign in sheets for each class must be signed to receive credit for CEU's.
4. All Display tables will be in the Bagley Center.
5. Family Store will be open in the Annex building next to the Chapel. Check sign on door for times. Take what you need for your family but please be respectful of others so that everyone has a chance to get what they need.

At the end of conference Local Foster Parent Associations are welcome to take what is left back to their counties to give out.



6. The Silent Auction is being presented again this year with proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund. More than \$5000 was raised last year with Silent Auction and raffles.
7. Thursday night Foster Parent Trivia game, Oldie Wed Game, and Talent Show. Space is limited for participants so be sure to sign up. Those chosen to participate will be announced at beginning of program. Training hours credit will be given due to the content of the questions.
8. "It's All About Me" Learn how to help create a scrap book for your children that tells the story about them. Attendance is limited for this class. You must sign up at registration desk. Classes this year will focus on page decoration and page development. Please bring 15 to 20 photographs with you to class. We will not be able to print photographs for you.
9. CPR is not being offered at conference this year. Our workers Mary Smith and Shirley Merrills have been visiting counties during the year providing CPR training. If you are in need of the training in your county contact them.

William Buddy Hooper
President AFAPA

Mary Smith
Vice President Foster Care

Joe Anthony
Vice President Adoption

Darla Works
Treasurer

Shirley Merrills
Secretary

Members at Large
Cheryl Anthony
Martha Hooper
Leroy Smith
Sharlene Casteel

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, MAY 5TH, 2016

7:00 – 7:45	Breakfast in Dining Hall
7:30 - 5:00	Registration in Chapel
8:00 – 8:30	Welcome and conference information
8:30 – 10:00	Chapel – What is AFAPA? Updates
10:30 – 12:00	Workshops
12:00-1:00	Lunch in dining hall
1:15 – 2:45	Workshops
2:45 – 3:00	Break
3:00 – 4:30	Workshops
5:00 – 6:00	Dinner in Dining Hall
6:15 -7:45	Chapel - Foster Parent Trivia and Oldie Wed Game & Talent Show

FRIDAY, MAY 6TH, 2016

7:30 – 11:30	Registration in Chapel
7:00 – 8:00	Breakfast in Dining Hall
8:30 – 10:00	Welcome Ceremony with pledge of allegiance, State Flag Ceremony, Special Recognitions and Special Speaker Commissioner Nancy Buckner.
10:15 – 11:45	Keynote Speakers
11:45 – 12:45	Lunch in Dining Hall
1:00 – 2:30	Workshops
2:30 – 3:00	Break
3:00 – 4:30	Workshops
5:00 – 6:00	Dinner in Dining Hall
6:30 – 7:30	Chapel – Scholarship Awards

SATURDAY, MAY 7TH, 2016

7:00 – 8:00	Breakfast in Dining Hall
8:00 – 10:00	Chapel – William Hooper – Closing Session – What did you learn and follow up questions

MEET SCOTTY AND BRANDON



Scotty, born July 2001 is a very intelligent, polite young man who makes friends easily. He is respectful towards adults. Scotty is an avid reader who loves fiction, mythical books and sometimes History. He is capable of being an A student, but his grades do not always reflect that. Scotty's favorite subject is Math and his least favorite is Science. He likes working on computers and aspires for a first career in the Air Force, and a second in anime character design. Scotty has asthma and uses an inhaler as needed. Scotty and his brother need a patient family who is nurturing and structured, with a strong male figure to spend time with them.

Brandon, born April 2005 is a very polite, affectionate, talkative and active boy who loves sports. His favorite sports are baseball, soccer and basketball. Brandon's favorite subject is also Math and is least favorite is Reading. He loves the color Red and he really likes hot and spicy chicken. Brandon is prescribed medication to help him stay on focus. Brandon enjoys receiving and giving compliments to others. Brandon enjoys receiving hugs. He's also known to communicate his feelings very well to others. Brandon and his brother are being recruited together and needs a structured family who is patient and nurturing.

Photograph provided by www.heartgalleryalabama.com

CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE WHO ARE NOT UNITED STATES CITIZENS

There are a growing number of immigrants residing in Alabama, both legal and illegal, and questions on how to serve this population are arising with increasing frequency.

Child welfare services can be provided to illegal immigrants. Federal regulations allow protective services to be provided without regard to a parent or child's citizenship.

Local funds are used to purchase goods or services for immigrants. Local funds may be used to secure services or goods for both legal and illegal immigrants in accordance with agency policy. Illegal immigrants are not eligible for means tested Federal Benefits, such as TANF, SSI or Food Stamps.

Illegal immigrants are not eligible for Medicaid. If a child in DHR custody is an illegal immigrant, medical bills must be paid from state funds.

There is no requirement to report illegal immigrants involved in child welfare cases to federal officials. However, Federal law does require that if an illegal alien applies for any federally funded, means tested benefit program (TANF, Food Stamps) we are required to notify the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (Formerly the INS) and provide them with the applicant's name, address, and other identifying data.

Anyone born in the United States is an U.S. citizen, regardless of the status of the parents. The child is entitled to all the rights and benefits of any other U.S. citizen.

Under Federal law, if a child under five is found in the United States, there is a presumption that he or she is a citizen, unless there is proof the child was born in another country.

The following procedures should be followed if an immigrant child is placed in DHR custody. International law requires that the consulate or embassy of the home country be notified that one of their citizens has been placed in DHR custody. Most countries have a consulate or embassy in the U.S. The consulate can assist in obtaining a home study of parents or relatives in another country and help locate birth records and other documents. These cases do not go through ICPC. The county worker should contact directory assistance in Atlanta, New Orleans, or Washington, D.C. and request the address and telephone number of that nation's consulate and make direct contact. The U.S. State Department also maintains a web site listing all accredited foreign consulates at www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/fco. It is important to alert the Consulate about the status of one of their citizens as soon as possible.

An illegal immigrant in DHR custody may be granted legal residency status through the Special Immigrant Juvenile Status process. Federal Regulations provide a special immigrant status for foster children. To qualify for this status, a judge must have adjudicated the child dependent and found that reunification or relative placement is not in the child's best interest. A petition (I-360) with a certified copy of the birth certificate and court orders must be filed with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (formerly INS), Atlanta District Office. (See www.INS.gov for information and forms.)

Interpretation resources are available for families that are not familiar with English. The Department has contracted with Language Line Services, LLC, to provide telephone interpreter services to facilitate client access to department services and to assist workers in interviewing and gathering information. Language Line Services provides 24 hours a day 7 days a week for over 140 different languages. This service is not intended to replace current local resources that provide interpreter services at no charge or for a nominal fee. The language Line Service is to be used when an interpreter is needed to provide services to an individual or household and you have no available resource or in emergencies when there is not sufficient time to arrange local resources. The department has been assigned the Client ID number 515019. This number must be used in conjunction with the program access code when calling.

Forms, pamphlets, and other written material are available to clients in a language they can read. It is crucial for families to receive ISP documents and other materials in a language they can read. Translation software has been purchased by the state. It is maintained in the Office of Communication. The software has the capability to translate a number of major languages. Unfortunately the software will not translate the local dialects spoken by some immigrants



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

JUST A FEW NOTES ABOUT ISPs

NOTE: the permanency plan of another planned permanent living arrangement shall only be utilized for children aged 16 and older.

ISPs shall be designed to achieve timely permanence and stability in children's living situations, and this requires appropriate and quality service planning and delivery from the beginning of work with children and their families. An early decision about the need for concurrent planning shall be made and reviewed at each ISP meeting. Concurrent planning is strongly encouraged in order for alternate permanency plans for children to be expedited if the initial permanency goal proves unattainable. Regardless of the permanency goal, the ISP and its implementation must provide for timely resolution of any barriers which could interfere with children's placement or maintenance in permanent homes

ISPs shall be developed, reviewed, and revised in partnership with the age-appropriate children, their parents, service providers, and other members of the child and family planning team. A discussion of strengths, needs, and potential steps and services to address family members' needs shall be held with all team members **prior to** ISP meetings. Decisions made during the ISP process will reflect the age-appropriate children's and family members' agreement unless the children's immediate safety needs cannot be met through mutual agreement of those involved.

ISP Policy is one of the most important DHR policies. If the ISP policy is followed the plan for the child/children should be clear to both the foster parent as well as bio families.

The time line for ISPs:

First ISP should be 72 hours after child comes into care.

Second ISP should be within 30 days.

Thereafter, **ISP reviews must occur at least every six months from the date of the initial ISP** and more frequently as needed.

Foster parents should receive a written copy of ISPs within 10 working days after the date the ISP was held.

Social Worker Monthly Visits

DHR social workers are required to make in home monthly visits with the child in care. The foster family needs to understand the importance of these visits.

These visits should be a time when the worker meets with the child and engages in some conversation or activity with the child. This is a great time for foster parents to communicate with the social worker and give updates on the child. How the child is doing, any concerns, and progress etc... This is also a good time to the foster parents to discuss with the social worker about the next ISP meeting, Court dates, doctor visits, visit concerns etc...





NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
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Permit #780

1091 County Road 1659
Cullman, AL 35058
1-888-545-2372
www.afapa.org

AFAPA NEWSLETTER INFO:

Articles can be submitted to Buddy Hooper, Editor. E-mail submissions should be addressed to afapa@afapa.org. Otherwise, mail to AFAPA 1091 County Road 1659 Cullman, AL 35058. Deadline dates fall the first of the month in February, May, August, & November.

Team
WORK
makes THE
DREAM
WORK

TEAM WORK

[teem-wurk]

NOUN

cooperative or coordinated effort on the part of a group of persons acting together as a

TEAM

or in the interests of a common cause.

Coming together is *beginning*, Keeping together is *progress*, Working together leads to *success*