

2010 -- H 7875

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT--DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN,
YOUTH AND FAMILIES -- FOSTER PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Introduced By: Representatives Shallcross Smith, Carnevale, Diaz, Brien, and JP O'Neill

Date Introduced: March 09, 2010

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND
2 GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 72.10

4 DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES -- FOSTER PARENTS' BILL OF
5 RIGHTS

6 **42-72.10-1. Policy Issues.** – (a) The Rhode Island general assembly recognizes the
7 importance of foster parents in the care and nurturing of children who are in the care and custody
8 of the department of children, youth and families. In an effort to ensure that foster parents are
9 treated with dignity, respect and trust in their work for the department and/or the department's
10 designated child placing agency, the general assembly hereby directs the department to
11 promulgate through policy, rule and/or regulations a statement of foster parents' rights by no later
12 than January 1, 2011. Said policy, rule and/or regulations shall address at a minimum issues
13 related to the following:

14 (1) The role of the foster parent within the child welfare team;

15 (2) Foster parent training;

16 (3) The timely sharing of available appropriate information on a foster child with the
17 foster parent, where the information could reasonably be expected to impact the care provided to
18 the child and/or the health and safety of the child and/or a foster family member;

- 1 (4) Confidentiality regarding a foster parent’s personal issues as provided by law;
2 (5) Access to services and supports to address the needs of the children in their care,
3 including but not limited to, 24-hour emergency and urgent telephone support;
4 (6) Timely notifications regarding meetings and court dates which pertain to the child’s
5 service planning and the ability to participate in those meetings as appropriate;
6 (7) Timely financial reimbursement as provided by department policies and procedures;
7 and
8 (8) Investigations of alleged licensing violations and/or child abuse in the foster home
9 and the appeals process for such investigations.
10 (b) Statement Required. By no later than March 1, 2011, the department shall provide all
11 current foster parents a copy of the promulgated statement of foster parents’ rights and ensure that
12 this is provided to all prospective foster parents at the time of their initial foster parent training or
13 in the case of kinship foster parents at the time of the relative child’s placement.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT--DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN,
YOUTH AND FAMILIES -- FOSTER PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

- 1 This act would provide for a statement of rights for foster parents to assist them in
- 2 the performance of their duties.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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