FLORIDA DEPARTMENT

OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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DISCIPLINE POLICY

Legal Basis:

Disciplinary policies are outlined in Chapter 10M-6.05{3)(j) of the Rules of the State of Florida. The rules are developed by the Department of children and Families by authority given in Section 409.175 of the Florida Statutes.

The Rules State:

Discipline is a training process through which the child develops the self-control, self-reliance, and orderly conduct necessary for them to assume responsibilities, make daily living decisions, and live according to accepted levels of social behavior. The purpose of discipline is educational and rational. It focuses on deterring unacceptable behavior by encouraging the child to

develop internal controls. Substitute parents are expected to define rules which establish limits and types of acceptable behavior. These rules must be clearly explained to each child and applied equally to all children.

Prohibited Disciplinary Practices Include:

Group punishments for misbehavior of individuals

Withholding meals, clothes, shelter, mail, correspondence, telephone calls, and/or family visits

Hitting, spanking, slapping, smacking, popping, whipping, grabbing, shaking or ANY other form of physical discipline

Physical, sexual, emotional and verbal abuse to include derogatory remarks about the child and/or family members

Humiliating, degrading, cruel or excessive punishment to include washing the child's mouth out with soap, making them eat hot peppers/sauces, kneeling on stones, physical chores or exertion that would deprive them of sleep or subject them to ridicule or endanger health etc.

Placing the child in a locked room

Delegation of authority for punishment to other children or adults not known to the child

- Threats to include removal from the home, reports to Case Manager, Judge or other authorities or of physical punishment

Punishment for bedwetting or errors occurring during the toilet training process

Examples of Positive Methods of Discipline:

Reinforcing acceptable behavior, for example, honest praise, special privileges and treats, extra hugs and kisses, additional time spent with the child, and stars or smiley faces on a door or bulletin board

- Verbal disapproval of the child's behavior, never the child, for example, "I don't like ball

throwing in the house"



Loss of privileges such as watching television, participating in a special event or playing with a specific toy

Grounding (restricting the child to the house or yard) or sending the child out of the room and away from family activity

Redirecting the child's activity, for example, if a child is playing with a sharp object, replace it with a safe toy

Time Out

* Should be supervised by the foster parent to ensure the safety of the child
* Should not exceed 5 minutes for children 5 and under, 15 minutes for children 6- 11, and 30 minutes for children 12 and older
* Should be in an unlocked, lighted, well ventilated room within hearing distance of an adult.

You may assign chores as a consequence of misbehavior, but not those that involve physical exercise so excessive as to endanger the child's health, or so extensive as to impinge on time set aside for school, work, sleeping or eating

Failure to comply with the discipline policy may result in the removal of the children, a warning that additional violations will result in closure of the home, and/or an investigation by Protective Investigations which could result in the closure of the home.

My signature acknowledges that I have read this statement, have received a copy, that I understand the content, and agree to abide by it.

Caregiver Signature Date

Caregiver Signature Date