



**JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
CABINET
DEPARTMENT OF
JUVENILE JUSTICE
POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

**REFERENCES:
1-JPAS-2-7108-15**

CHAPTER: Administration

AUTHORITY: KRS 15A.065

SUBJECT: Foster Care

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,COMMISSIONER

I. POLICY

The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) shall provide a placement continuum for youth committed to its care that allows for the least restrictive placement that is commensurate with each youth's needs. DJJ shall contract with licensed, qualified providers to provide foster care services to the appropriate youth. Emergency placement shall be available when necessary.

II. APPLICABILITY

This policy shall apply to all DJJ staff and contracted Private Child Care providers.

III. DEFINITIONS

Refer to Chapter 100.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. All foster care services shall be provided for the Department through contracted services. All contracts for foster care services shall specify the range of services that are provided to youth and the responsibilities of each party in providing specific services.
- B. Contracts for foster care services shall be the joint responsibility of the Classification Branch and the Fiscal Branch. All contracts shall be approved by the Commissioner.
- C. Persons providing foster care services shall be selected for their child care abilities and their conduct shall be governed by clear standards of conduct.
 1. All contracted foster care agencies shall be in compliance with the requirements of 922 KAR 1:310 and 922 KAR 1:350. This regulation includes personnel standards that include criminal background checks and hiring standards.
 2. Contracts with foster care agencies shall specify that employed staff are bound by the contracting agency's code of conduct in addition to the DJJ Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct, both of which are to be provided to all staff with childcare responsibilities.

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- D. Persons providing foster care services shall be provided orientation and training to ensure that they understand their rights and responsibilities, the rights and responsibilities of DJJ and the contracting agency, and the rights of the youth under their care.
- E. All contracted foster care agencies shall ensure their staff are trained as required in 922 KAR 1:350, Section 9.
- F. Foster care parents shall have twenty-four (24) hour access to agency personnel. Contracting agencies shall provide mechanisms for their staff to contact supervisory staff after hours.
- G. Foster care agencies shall be provided all DJJ policies regarding youth discipline. Agencies shall be responsible for providing foster care parents with these policies and enforcing them within their agency. Agencies are also responsible for informing foster care parents in writing that the following actions are strictly prohibited: corporal punishments of any kind; threats, derogatory remarks, or other verbal abuse directed toward the youth or their natural parents; deprivation of meals; deprivation of visits with the natural parents without prior consultation with the youth's Juvenile Services Worker (JSW); and any unusual or unnecessary punishment.
- H. DJJ shall budget and provide compensation for foster home care rates equal to those being paid by other human service agencies in the same jurisdiction.
- I. Foster care agencies shall specify the amount and method of compensation for foster home parents.
- J. Contracts with foster care agencies shall specify the contracting agency's responsibility for providing for the special financial needs of youth in foster care placement.

V. MONITORING MECHANISM

This policy shall be monitored by the Classification Branch and the Fiscal Branch on an ongoing basis. The Quality Assurance Branch shall review foster care contracts for compliance with this policy on a regular basis.