

## Summary of the Foster Parent's Rights

For the full statement of rights see 10 O.S. § 7206.1

A foster parent's rights shall include, but not be limited to, the right to:

1. Be treated with dignity, respect, and consideration;
2. Be notified of and be given appropriate training;
3. Be informed about ways to contact state agencies to assist in accessing supportive services for children;
4. Receive timely financial reimbursement;
5. Be notified of any costs or expenses for which the foster parent may be eligible for reimbursement;
6. Be provided a clear, written explanation of the service plan concerning the child in the foster parent's home;
7. Receive additional or necessary information that is relevant to the care of the child;
8. Be notified of scheduled review meetings, permanency planning meetings and special staffings;
9. Provide input concerning the plan of services for the child;
10. Communicate with other foster parents to share information regarding the foster child;
11. Communicate with other professionals who work with the foster child;
12. Be given pertinent information regarding the child and family;
13. Be given reasonable notice of any change in or addition to the services provided to the child;
14. a. Be given written notice of:
  - (1) plans to terminate the placement of the child with the foster parent, and
  - (2) the reasons for the changes or termination in placement, andb. The notice shall be waived only in emergency cases pursuant to Section [7208](#) of this title;
15. Be notified of the date, time, and location of all court hearings;
16. Be informed of decisions made by the court, the state agency or the child-placing agency concerning the child;
17. Be considered as a preferred placement option when a foster child re-enters foster care;
18. Be provided a fair and timely investigation of complaints concerning the foster parent's certification;
19. Be provided the opportunity to request/receive a fair hearing regarding certification retention or placement of children in the home;
20. Be allowed the right to exercise parental substitute authority;
21. Have timely access to an appeal process and to be free from acts of harassment and retaliation;
22. Be given the number of the statewide toll-free Foster Parent Hotline; and
23. File a grievance and be informed of the process for filing a grievance.



1-800-822-0899  
405 606-4925 OKC area

Foster  
Care  
Mediation

*Seeking resolutions for the  
benefit of our children*

1-800-822-0899  
405 606-4925 OKC area

A joint project of the  
Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth  
And  
Alternative Dispute Resolution System of the  
Administrative Office of the Courts

## *What is the Foster Care Mediation Program?*

The Foster Care Mediation Program is a voluntary program for foster parents and child placing agencies to mediate complaints concerning the rights of foster parents that relate to certain actions, inactions, or decisions of child-placing agencies that may adversely affect the safety and well-being of children in the custody of the state. In 2006 the Oklahoma Legislature created the program as a part of the Kelsey Smith-Briggs Child Protection Reform Act.

## *What Types of Cases are Eligible for Mediation?*

- Cases involving children in the State's custody either through the Department of Human Services or the Office of Juvenile Affairs.
- Cases concerning the rights of foster parents
- Cases concerning the action, inactions or decisions of the child placing agency
- Cases adversely affecting the safety and well-being of children

## *Who are the Mediators?*

The mediators are community volunteers who have received special training and are certified by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts. They are experienced in mediation, have received additional training in issues involving the Foster Parent Bill of Rights and the juvenile justice/child welfare system.

# Foster Care Mediation

## *What is Mediation?*

Mediation is an effective way to help individuals who disagree to discuss the problem and come to a mutually acceptable resolution. The mediator does not judge or decide, but instead helps the parties find their own common ground. Mediation is not a substitute for legal help and no legal advice will be given by the mediator. Participants retain their rights to due process hearings, court action, or filing complaints with appropriate agencies.

## *How Does a Case get Considered for Mediation?*

The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) has established a toll free number specifically for the Foster Care Mediation Program. OCCY will receive requests for mediation, and contact all parties to seek their voluntary involvement in the process. If all parties agree the case will be referred to the Alternative Dispute Resolution System of the Administrative Office of the Courts. Their regionally established Early Settlement Centers will utilize a network of volunteers to mediate the cases.

*Call 1-800-822-0899  
405 606-4925 OKC*

- *Voluntary*
- *Confidential*
- *Fair*
- *Speedy*
- *No Cost*