

## Parent

### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### PURPOSE

The success of the child in foster care requires the engagement of the child's parents and other significant kin. It is for this reason the parent needs to be at the center of the service and treatment planning and implementation. Furthermore, the parent of the child in foster care is the expert on their child and will know what has been done before, what the child needs, and what the desired outcomes for the child and family may be.

A child needs to know their biological parents; self-knowledge has significant and irreplaceable value with respect to identity-formation.

#### Primary Role

The parent/guardian:

- Retains decision making authority unless it has been modified by the court.
- Is an important team member and part of all service planning discussions.
- Contributes need to know information for the referral to the TFC resource parent and other team members, including signing releases for needed information.
- Participates in pre-placement services to meet and inform the TFC resource parent(s) and other team members about their child and family.
- Invites/introduces other family members or friends who have or could support the child and reunification efforts.
- Participate in in-person meetings, including those at the resource parent's home or the parent's home, which are necessary for positive engagement, cohesive case planning, sharing of ideas and strategies, and building trust.
- Participate in scheduled interaction opportunities with their child.
- Practice treatment strategies identified in service planning (for example, the parent may adapt the way of supporting and correcting the child's behavior).
- Participates in post TFC services to use all proven strategies and lessons to ensure the best care of their child.

#### Strategies and approaches

The parent/guardian should:

- Reach out to the Social Work Case Manager with questions about the foster care system, the relationship with the parent or child, or other matters related to the safety, permanency and well-being of the child.
- Reach out to the Therapeutic Case Manager with questions about the treatment needs of the child, including the role of other clinical service providers.

#### Resources

- Family interaction (also called family visits) are arranged through the SWCM
- Clinical case consultation is available as requested through the SWCM
- Clinical team calls are routinely held at least once every month for each child. These calls will be set up by the Therapeutic Case Manager