



6737 W. Washington St., Suite 4400, West Allis, WI 53214
(414) 604-5800 | FAX (414) 721-0092

Shared Parenting Agreement

Shared Parenting is when a child is supported by everyone on their team to ensure the best outcome for the child. It will look different for each child and their family, but the result will always be the same: a child who thrives.

All parents enter into Shared Parenting relationships the moment a child enters out of home care. Planning, communication and cooperation can shape those relationships into partnerships that support our children as they move throughout the system. Shared Parenting is a way to have all the adults in a child's life, foster or kinship parents, biological families and agency staff, become a team in caring for the child; always seeking to keep the primary focus on the welfare of the child.

Foster parents, kinship parents, and like-kin parents play a vital role in the Shared Parenting framework, supplementing and supporting birth families, rather than substituting for them. When children see the adults in their life working together, it can help eliminate feelings of divided loyalties and improve behavior. When parents work together, the foster, kinship or like-kin parent can also gather additional information about the child directly from the biological parent thus, helping them parent more effectively.

At SaintA, we know that Shared Parenting can seem intimidating at first. It can often be challenging to build, or rebuild, a relationship. SaintA is committed to helping support you through the challenges of Shared Parenting. Your SaintA team's role is to educate all team members, including biological families, about the importance of Shared Parenting. In addition, the SaintA team helps facilitate the initial connection between families, offers ideas and suggestions for ways to build relationships, and will discuss with you when cases may not be appropriate to practice Shared Parenting.

SaintA Caregivers are asked in collaboration with their SaintA team to:

1. Work to build relationships with the biological family of the child or children placed in their home. That may mean building a relationship with other family members if the biological parents are not in a place to build a relationship.
2. Develop a plan for regular contact with the birth parents to discuss updates or progress of the children in your home. This can be done face to face, via phone, email or other means.
3. Collaborate and communicate around appointments, extracurricular activities, haircuts, etc., with the birth parents.
4. Develop a visit schedule with the birth parents and the SaintA team that fits the needs/desires of all parties. When appropriate, consider supervising these visits as schedule and case dynamics allow.
5. Work with the birth parents to collaboratively address any behavioral, medical, academic, and spiritual needs that the children in your home may be experiencing.
6. Routinely communicate with caregivers of any siblings to the children in your home, to help ensure regular contact between the family.



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While every family may not be appropriate for all the examples above, in most cases there is the ability to build even a small Shared Parenting relationship. Even small steps towards Shared Parenting can lead to positive outcomes for our children and brings us closer to a community where all our children and families can thrive!

By signing this document, you understand the expectations around Shared Parenting and have received information about ways to practice Shared Parenting.

Name Date

Name Date

Name Date

Name Date

Name Date