

Resource Parent



Dear Resource Family,

Thank you for becoming a resource parent for children in our community. Washoe County Human Services Agency is here to support you and your family.

WCHSA endorses the Quality Parenting Initiative*(QPI). The cornerstone of the QPI philosophy is to reinforce that every child deserves excellent parenting. QPI parenting occurs when resource parents and biological parents utilize co-parenting techniques to increase the quality of care provided to foster youth.

QPI also values transparency as a tool to successfully provide foster care services. We strive to provide you with as much information as possible while a child is placed in your care. If you need support or have concerns, please contact the assigned case worker, licensing worker, and QPI liaison. WCHSA prioritizes the wellbeing of our resource parents and children in care.

This letter outlines several resources and levels of support that can be accessed at any time.

Thank you for becoming a licensed Resource Parent with Washoe County Human Services Agency. We look forward to a longstanding relationship to help the children in Washoe County.

Sincerely,

WCHSA

New Placement Resource Guide

Removal/placement

A member of our placement team will contact you about children in Washoe County who need a resource home. This call may also come from our after-hours team/on call caseworker as children are removed 24/7. Children are often waiting in the community with a social worker while the details of the placement are worked out. Please do your best to communicate with the person making the call and ask questions to ensure this is a good fit for your family. Depending on the removal circumstances, limited information about the child(ren) is available. The placement liaison will facilitate the placement of the child into your care.

AFTER HOURS NUMBER:
833-900-SAFE (7233)

Medical Unit
775-284-2763
2097 Longley Lane

FEC
775.352.3230
905 E Prater Way

Resource Parent Head Quarters
2395 East Prater Way

Facebook Page:
Washoe County Foster & Adoption Support

WEBSITE:
www.washoecounty.us/hsa
www.qpinevada.org
haveaheartwashoe.us

DON'T FORGET

- Placement letter
- Set appointment within 24 hrs. with the medical unit
- Set up the following appointments
 - Primary Care Doctor
 - DentistCommunity Provider list can be found on the QPI website qpinevada.org
- NEIS – (0-3 years old)
 - HSA will complete referral
- WIC- (0-5 years old)
 - Call WIC 775.328.2299 (make sure you have your placement letter)
- Clothing inventory
- Medication log
- Email Heather Wenker & Katie Proctor with 24 hours of new placement
hwenker@washoecounty.gov
kproctor@washoecounty.gov

INFANT

When picking up an infant from a hospital remember this can have additional requirements to include but not limited to

- May be asked to room in- this means you may have to stay a night or two at the hospital with the infant.
- Car seat challenge prior to discharge- this is when you have to bring the car seat into the hospital and the child has to stay in the car seat for observation. You will be required to show that you can safely secure the child in the seat.
- Must have first primary care doctor's appointment set prior to discharge (Community Provider list can be found on the QPI website qpinevada.org)

WHAT TO ASK

- Name, age, and gender of the child(ren)
- If there are siblings
- Reason for removal
- What arrangements do I need to have in place prior to the child's arrival?
 - Bed arrangements, crib (Safe Sleep), car seat, etc
- Medical/ dietary needs/ allergies
 - Doctor, Dentist, any specialist, type of formula etc
- Medication/ PLR
- Behaviors
- School / daycare – remember you are expected to transport
- Therapist
- Upcoming appointments- – remember you are expected to transport
- Supervision requirements
- Visitation – days, times, parents visits together or separate, sibling visitation – remember you are expected to transport
- Licensing limitations

VISITATION

First visits occur at the Family Engagement Center (FEC) within 48 hours of removal. These are facilitated by an FEC Engager and the resource parent. FEC staff will meet with the birth parent(s) prior to the first visit to address any issues, provide a tour, and provide a basic discussion around visitation and engagement expectations. They are also introduced to elements of the Fostering Relationships through Visitation (FRTV) model and once the resource parent and child arrive, an Icebreaker is completed as well as a discussion about ongoing visitation scheduling. Every family that attends family time at the FEC is provided an Engager that works on scheduling, coaching, monitoring, and supporting best visitation practices. They are the go-to person regarding all FEC matters.

FRTV is a relationship building model which focuses on building a positive co-parenting relationship between both sets of parents. During visits/family time, it is hoped that resource parent coaches and Engager staff encourage birth parents to follow their child's lead, encouraging play-based engagement and connection with their children and strengthening the parent-child relationship. It is the expectation that all resource parents will engage birth parents using the FRTV model to build a positive co-parenting relationship, improve visitation experiences for parents and children and to support reunification.

Family Engagement Center (FEC)

Hours of operation: M-F 8:00 to 7:00 pm and Saturday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Location- 905 E Prater Way Sparks, NV 89434 (corner of Prater and Howard)

Phone number 775.352.3230

WHO TO CONTACT FOR SUPPORT?

Acronyms

PLR- PERSON LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE

If a child is on any psychotropic medication, they will have to be assigned a PLR.

FST- FAMILY SOLUTION TEAM MEETING

FST is a facilitated meeting that you will be invited to. It is held shortly after a child is removed

CFT- CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM MEETING

CFT is a meeting that is held monthly if not more frequent to go over the status of the case as well as the child(ren)'s needs. You can request CFT's as well when needed.

PC HEARING- PROTECTIVE CUSTODY HEARING

You do not need to attend.

ADJ HEARINGS- ADJUDICATION HEARING

You do not have to attend.

DISPO HEARINGS- DISPOSITIONAL HEARING

You will be invited to attend these hearings. You should make this a priority to attend. The judge may ask you questions regarding the child(ren) and your interactions with the parents.

REVIEW HEARING & PERMANENCY HEARINGS

There will be a hearing at least every six months that you should also make a priority to attend. You will receive notice of all court hearings in the mail. This will include a court report form to fill out if you are unable to attend. Ask your case worker any questions you may have regarding court.

- Licensing worker
Name: _____ Number: _____
Email: _____
- Child(ren)'s caseworker
Name: _____ Number: _____
Email: _____
- Placement Liaison
Heather Wenker- hwenker@washoecounty.gov
Katie Proctor- kproctor@washoecounty.gov
- QPI Liaison
Kylee Spring- kspring@washoecounty.gov

RESOURCES

Initial placement Resource:

- Clothing/diaper resources- Reno Rodeo Foundation (Heather) & FEC may have supplies available for initial placements (FEC)

Ongoing:

- Respite- Respite services are available and can be sought for true respite (babysitting), or inclusive respite (family vacation). Respite funds are available for all licensed providers, excluding families licensed for adoption only. Please reach out to your licensing worker or the placement and support team with any questions.
- RAVE- Providing respite to families caring for children (3 month to 18 years) in foster care <http://nnrff.org>
- Children's Cabinet Substate- If both caregivers work full time Child's Cabinet can help with the cost of daycare. Ask your caseworker to send referral.
- WIC- (0-5 years old) Call WIC 775.328.2299 office to set up appointment. Need to have a placement letter.

TERMS TO REMEMBER

EMERGENCY PLACEMENT: EMERGENCY PLACEMENTS ARE FOR 14 DAYS BUT AT TIMES CAN BE LONGER. DURING THAT TIME THE AGENCY IS LOOKING FOR A LONG-TERM PLACEMENT IF THE CURRENT HOME IS UNABLE TO CONTINUE CARE OF THE CHILD

COMFORT CALL: ONCE YOU RECEIVE YOUR FIRST PLACEMENT THERE WILL BE A COMFORT CALL BETWEEN YOU AND THE BIRTH FAMILY. THIS CALL OCCURS ONCE THE CHILD IS PLACED IN YOUR HOME. THIS IS THE FIRST STEP IN ESTABLISHING A POSITIVE CO-PARENTING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOU AND THE CHILD'S FAMILY.

Family Solution Team (FST) meeting: THE FST MEETING IS HELD SHORTLY AFTER A CHILD IS REMOVED. THIS MEETING GOES OVER THE REASONS FOR REMOVAL, VISITATION, THE CHILDS INFORMATION/NEEDS. YOUR ATTENDANCE IN THE MEETING IS IMPORTANT.

NORMALCY: ALL CHILDREN SHOULD EXPERIENCE A TYPICAL CHILDHOOD THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES THAT ARE AGE AND DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When do I Schedule Appointments?

- Within 7 days of the child(ren) being placed with you, you must schedule a child wellness exam for the child(ren) to occur within the next 30 days. The wellness exam should be scheduled with the child's established pediatrician. If this is not possible (the doctor cannot see the child for 2 months, etc) the exam can occur with the WCHSA Medical Unit. Please call the Medical Unit to schedule at 775.284.2750.
- If the child(ren) need to be seen by any other medical providers (eye doctor, dentist etc) schedule those appointments as soon as possible. Rule of thumb: Children must be seen by a dentist once they get their first tooth, or when they turn a year old. Children must be seen by an optometrist when they begin school (Kindergarten age).
- Birth parents must be invited to all medical appointments (unless direct otherwise by your caseworker) for the child(ren). Please, notify your worker of the date, time and address of all upcoming appointments.

What kind of medical care/procedures can I consent to?

- WCHSA may only consent to necessary and emergency medical care. This means that procedures like circumcisions, vaccinations or other non-necessary or non-emergency medical care require parental consent. Usually both parents must consent to the care prior to any medical procedure occurring. Talk with your caseworker before allowing any of those procedures. Parents still maintain the right to sign for medical procedures even while child(ren) are in care. The foster parent may sign for procedures with caseworker consent, but efforts must first be made to have the parent sign. Always notify your caseworker prior to signing for or scheduling any procedure or vaccination.

What if the child(ren) are not vaccinated?

- WCHSA cannot consent to any vaccination for child(ren). Vaccinations require explicit parental consent. If the parents do not consent to vaccinations, a court hearing may be held to determine if vaccination is necessary for the child(ren)'s safety/wellbeing.

Can I give/get the child(ren) a haircut?

- Children in care only receive haircuts with parental consent. If the parents do not consent, a court hearing may be necessary to determine if a haircut is needed.

Can I change the child(ren) school?

- School changes must be staffed with birth parents, the child's caseworker, attorneys and others team members involved before any school change can occur. Please recall how a child's right to maintain their school of origin was explained at length during pre-service training.

What if I don't feel comfortable with visitation?

- Parents have rights to visitation regardless of their engagement with the agency. Visitation can be set up at the Family Engagement Center (FEC) or other agreed upon locations. You may still be required to allow phone calls and video chat between the parents and child(ren). Visitation between parents and children is required unless you are told otherwise by your caseworker. Please recall how a child's right to maintain their school of origin was explained at length during pre-service training.

What if I need to leave the state, travel, or have planned vacations?

- Notify your caseworker ASAP of any upcoming travel/overnight stays so that approvals and arrangements can be made for travel and/or respite. A written request to the caseworker at least a week prior to the event is appreciated. If traveling outside of Washoe County with the child(ren), parental consent may be required.