



Point -Counter Point Answers to Questions Raised

Part 1: Resource Family to Recruitment, Development, & Support (RDS)

RF1: You say that you are my support: What does that mean? What can I call upon you for?

RDS is here to assist Resource Families when there are challenges or questions about the roles and responsibilities of a caregiver. RDS can also assist in accessing resources for the child and family, liaison between other partners, and provide individualized support to caregivers.

RF2: What do I do if I need to take a break or leave town?

Resource Families should give the child's social worker as much notice as possible if the caregiver is leaving town or needs overnight care. Resource Families can also call the placement team for assistance in identifying a licensed caregiver who may be able to assist but the social worker should also be included in this discussion. Resource Families have some allowances through the prudent parent standard and Title 22 to identify short term babysitters or alternate caregivers to provide care in the home. Please review this information when in need of short term care. You may visit <http://www.cclld.ca.gov/res/pdf/IR201501.pdf> for more information.

RF1: If I am having a major conflict with foster child behavior, who do I call first?

Anytime you are facing challenges related to the child's needs or behaviors, your first contact should be the child's social worker. Once the social worker has been made aware of the challenges, you may also reach out to RDS for support in accessing resources and training.

RF2: Tell me what is private in my home and what is public to the system of care?

Remember, that once approved you are a state approved facility. This means that there are limits to your privacy if it related to your home as a facility or you as a caregiver.

RF1: If I receive an abuse report or complaint, how can you support me?

If an allegation of abuse or violation of the RFA written directives is received by the agency, we must investigate it. While we know this is very scary, it is part of being a resource family and is something that nearly all caregivers will face at some time during their time as caregiver. Once RFA worker or ER has initiated their investigation, you may contact RDS for support. Remember that RDS cannot discuss the investigation itself but an offer emotional support and linkage to other supportive resources.

RF2: What if something happens to the child while he/she is in my home?

Remember that any sort of incident needs to be reported to your RFA worker on an Unusual Incident Report. You should call your RFA worker to inform them of the incident within 24 hours and submit the written report as soon as possible. This form can be found in the forms section of www.fostervckids.org. As a best practice, you should include the child's social worker in correspondence related to incidents.

Part 2: RDS & RFA worker to Resource Family

RFA WORKER: Please don't move people into the house without first letting me know.

Remember that any adult that will reside in the home, including birth children once they turn 18, must be cleared (Live Scan and TB test). If the adult is not cleared, the home is liable for civil penalties. Please plan accordingly and work with your RFA WORKER to remain in compliance. If children move into the home, this

Part3: Resource Family to Social Worker

RF1: Why haven't you returned my calls?

Remember our social workers have very high caseloads and may be unable to contact you as soon as you would like. Agency practice is to return calls within 48 business hours. If you are unsuccessful at reaching the social worker, please contact their supervisor.

RF2: Please ask first, or discuss with me before you make plans with promises to a child as that may create a conflict if you are not aware of what the family has planned.

It is important that you form a working relationship with the child's social worker. Please be sure to let your child's social worker know of any plans, etc that may interfere with the social worker's plans for the child and ask that they do the same for you.

RF1: Can you provide me with a case plan?

No, because it is confidential. Social workers will provide the child's needs and services plan to you.

RF2: I need your help coordinating visitation with the biological parent.

We support Resource Families in monitoring visits and having contacts with the family, as approved by the social worker. You will need to work in partnership to establish boundaries around your co-parenting.

RF1: Can we talk ideas I have about discipline? Sometimes the child tells me I can't parent her because you are her guardian.

We understand that sometimes children struggle to adjust to new rules, parenting styles, etc and that their grief & trauma may play a part in how they respond to your parenting. Working with your social worker to present a unified team to the child is important to establish structure and appropriate parenting.