

**FOSTER PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS (HB1562):** *The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services shall ensure that each foster parent in this state shall be granted the following rights based on current foster care state guidelines, rules and laws as outlined in the DCYF Resource Guide to Assist Families with Foster Care Adoption and Permanency Supports for NH Foster Parents, administrative rules, court protocols, and state statutes RSA 169-C, RSA 170-C and RSA 354-A.*

## **RIGHTS**

**I. The right to advocate for a foster child in his or her care and to be treated with dignity, respect, and consideration as a primary provider of foster care and as a valued member of the child welfare team,** including: (a) Uniform treatment throughout the state by the department, ensuring the exercise of the rights granted to foster parents, including the right not to be discriminated against on the basis of religion, race, color, creed, sex, national origin, age, marital status, or physical handicap. (b) Freedom from coercion, discrimination, and reprisal for voicing concerns about a child in the foster parent's care. (c) A commitment that the department shall not discharge, threaten, or otherwise discriminate or retaliate against a foster parent for any appropriate inquiry regarding the decisions or practices of the department.

## **SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**

State Commission for Human Rights and Law Against Discrimination (NH RSA 354-A).[1] Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964. In the Resource Guide to Assist Families with Foster Care Adoption and Permanency Supports for NH Foster Parents: [2]

1) See Role of the Foster Parent:

- Foster parents are part of a team, p. 5.
- Communicating with the team is crucial, p. 5.

2) See Foster Care- Responsibilities

- Communicating regularly with the Resource Worker and CPSW or JPPO about the child in care, p. 7.

3) See Order to Comply:

- An Order to Comply may restrict any aspect of a license or permit for a period of up to 60 days to allow the foster parents to correct the conditions leading to non-compliance. p. 7.

4) See Role of the Case Worker:

- The Worker wants to discuss [with foster parents] any issues or concerns that have developed and to listen to progress that is being made, p. 8.

5) See Special Investigations:

- The First Initial Response Team (F.I.R.S.T.) is made up of trained foster parents who have knowledge of the protocols DCYF must

follow and will explain the investigation process and maintain confidentiality according to state laws, p. 9.

6) See Reunification:

- Foster parents are important partners with the CPSW and the family, p. 17.

7) See Education of the Child:

- They are an important part of the special education team, p. 19.

**II. The right to accept or refuse placement of a child and to request, upon reasonable notice to the department, the removal of a child from the foster parent's home.** This includes

Federal Uniform Adoption Act (UAA 1994), specifically Section 2-103(1)(b)(3),(e) & Section 3-301 (a)(1)(2) & related section comments.[3]

In the Resource Guide to Assist Families with Foster Care Adoption and Permanency Supports for NH Foster Parents:  
See Rights and Responsibilities of the Foster Parent- Rights: