

CONFIDENTIALITY AND CHILD FOSTER CARE

Information about foster children and their families is protected under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and must be held in confidence by foster parents.

Some information must be shared between the social worker and foster parents. This sharing should always be done with a constructive purpose ~ to benefit the child. Both the social worker and the foster parents should let the child know that they will be sharing information. Foster parents may also answer guardian ad litem's questions about the placement.

It is not unusual that friends and neighbors ask for information about your foster child. Although their interest may be well intentioned, you and your immediate family members have the responsibility to protect the confidentiality of your foster child's background and other related information.

This can be particularly difficult when your foster child is a relative or kin. Other close relatives and family friends may have questions and concerns about the child that you will not be able to answer.

You **must not** share confidential information about the child and the child's situation with them. It is best to refer these individuals to the child's social worker.

PHOTOS, VIDEOS, & PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT FOSTER CHILDREN

Foster parents must not allow photographs, sketches, videos, identifying information or names of foster children to be used in any material that will be available to the public. This includes but is not limited to:

- Photos or sketches (e.g. Christmas cards), and/or videos shown to anyone other than immediate family members.
- Photos, sketches, names or identifying information on a web page or web site.
- Photos, sketches, names or identifying information as part of a presentation for a class, article, recognition, etc.
- Photos, sketches, names or identifying information in any publication, such as newspapers, company newsletters, magazines, etc.

If you have questions about these or other circumstances or situation ask/consult the child's social worker. In some situations, the child's social worker may obtain prior written authorization from each child's parent(s) or legal guardian for usage.