

February 10, 2017

Dear Foster Parents,

I recently was able to meet one on one with most of CFSF staff around the state. I was so impressed with the love and devotion our staff have to their jobs. CFSF is all about supporting foster parents and having staff that understand our devotion to you is essential.

Starting in March, I will be reaching out to meet with you, our Foster Parents. I am continually blown away by the love and devotion you have for children and want to be sure we are helping make your experience rewarding.

Thank you ALL for making a difference in our state one child at a time.

Sincerely,



**CFSF Emergency
After Hours
360-443-2516
Website:
www.cfsf.net**

Kitsap Foster Care
Association
[http://
kitsapfostercare.org](http://kitsapfostercare.org)



*Remember Daylight
Savings!
Spring Forward
March 12, 2017*

This year we had a total of 25 ADOPTIONS!!! Thank you to all the people who have been involved in making it possible for these kids to have a forever home! Your countless hours and dedication have not gone unnoticed! Thank YOU for making a difference!

Income Tax Information

With tax season approaching, we often receive questions regarding foster care money and taxes.

As an agency, we are not authorized to give out tax advice. We recommend you contact a tax accountant that would be able to give you accurate information. You are also welcome to talk with other foster parents to see what they have done. We do know there are some foster parents who do claim foster children on their taxes, but please consult a professional, as tax laws are constantly changing.

What we can say is that foster care monies you receive from Community & Family Services are a reimbursement and are not considered taxable income and therefore are not reported as income.

That being said, when it comes to Respite, if you have done Respite and have received money directly from the state, they consider that as taxable income, so they will send you a form to use to file with your taxes. If you have done Respite and been paid directly by our agency, the money is considered a reimbursement and is not taxable.



WAC 388-148-1425**What are my reporting responsibilities when a child is missing from care?**

(1) As soon as you have reason to believe a child in your care is missing as defined in WAC [388-148-1305](#) or has refused to return to or remain in your care, or whose whereabouts are otherwise unknown, you are required to notify the following:

- (a) The child's assigned DSHS worker, as appropriate
- (b) CA Intake, if the DSHS worker is not available or it is after normal business hours
- (c) The case manager, if the child is placed by a child placing agency program.

(2) You are required to contact local law enforcement within six hours if the child is missing from care.

You must contact law enforcement immediately in any of the following circumstances:

- (a) The child is believed to have been taken from placement. This means the child's whereabouts are unknown, and it is believed that the child has been concealed, detained or removed by another person
- (b) The child is believed to have been lured from placement or has left placement under circumstances that indicate the child may be at risk of physical or sexual assault or exploitation
- (c) The child is age thirteen or younger
- (d) The child has one or more physical or mental health conditions that if not treated daily, will place the child at severe risk
- (e) The child is pregnant, or is parenting and the infant/child is believed to be with him or her
- (f) The child has severe emotional problems (e.g. suicidal thoughts) that if not treated, will place the child at severe risk
- (g) The child has an intellectual and developmental disability that impairs the child's ability to care for him/herself
- (h) The child has a serious alcohol and/or substance abuse problem
- (i) The child is at risk due to circumstances unique to that child.

(3) After contacting local law enforcement, you must also contact the national center for missing and exploited children at 1 (800)843-5678 and report the child missing from care.

4) If the child leaves school or has an unauthorized absence from school, you should consult with the child's worker to assess the situation and determine when you should call law enforcement. If any of the factors listed in subsections (2)(a) through (i) of this section are present, you and the child's worker may decide it is appropriate to delay notification to law enforcement for up to four hours after the end of the school day to give the child the opportunity to return.

(5) You must provide the following information to law enforcement and to the child's DSHS worker when making a missing child report, if available:

- (a) When the child left
- (b) Location the child left
- (c) What the child was wearing
- (d) Any known behaviors or interactions that may have caused the child's departure
- (e) Possible places where the child may go
- (f) Special physical or mental health conditions or medications that affect the child's safety
- (g) Known companions who may be aware or involved in the child's absence
- (h) Other professionals, relatives, significant adults or peers who may know where the child would go
- (i) Recent photo of the child.

(6) You must ask law enforcement for the missing person report number and provide it to the child's DSHS worker or staff.

(7) At any time after making an initial report you learn of a missing child's whereabouts or the child returns to your home, you must report that information to the child's DSHS worker.

Sleep Train's Annual Pajama Bowl**April 2, 2017**

CFSF will have a team and if anyone wants to form a team please contact Celeste at dice@cfsf.net. The money raised from this activity helps support Summer Activities and other special events.



"Chris", not quite two years old, was placed with one of our Foster Families late last fall. She was placed with this CFSF Foster Family in order to be in close proximity to her biological parents who immediately began participating in services they needed in order to have Chris return. This Foster mom was very supportive of the biological parents and the work they were doing to reunite with their child. She was comfortable with parents attending Chris's doctor appointments when she had them. Chris's biological parents worked hard to engage in services and eliminate safety barriers that prevented Chris from returning home. It was determined the biological parents had done enough to safely return Chris home with an in-home dependency in place. The only remaining barrier was that Chris's parents needed a more appropriate car seat for her safety, but they were lacking funds to immediately buy one. At the FTDM, these amazing foster parents volunteered to buy Chris a new car seat as part of her Christmas gift so that she could spend her Christmas with her mom and dad. Chris was returned home yesterday after only a couple of months in foster care. CFSF is so blessed to have foster parents who love these kids and want the very best for them!