

## FOSTER CARE STANDARDS

- Whereas, Some children and youth in Utah are living in situations deemed by the Division of Child and Family Services as neglectful, abusive, or unsafe;<sup>1, 2</sup> and
- Whereas, Some youth in Utah need to be removed from their homes and placed in temporary and quality foster homes for their safety and well-being; and there were 4,666 children in foster care in 2016 and in 2017 there were approximately 1,300 foster families available in Utah;<sup>3, 4</sup> and
- Whereas, Clear standards have been defined by Utah's Division of Child and Family Services and Office of Licensing in regard to criteria for acceptance as foster care providers;<sup>5, 6</sup> and
- Whereas, Foster parents are reimbursed for caring for children below the average daycare expenses in Utah;<sup>7, 8</sup> and
- Whereas, In 2016, Guardian ad litem attorneys had on average 140 children on their caseloads at any given time, making it difficult to give each of the children adequate attention;<sup>9, 10</sup> and
- Whereas, Studies indicate that the impact on an adult from experiencing out-of-home care as a child include: poorer school performance, higher rates of school dropout, increased use of public assistance, higher rates of homelessness, arrest, and chemical dependency, lower marriage rates, and poorer mental and physical health;<sup>11, 12, 13</sup> now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA advocate for resources to help parents keep children in their own homes whenever it is in the best interest of the child; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations promote the recruitment of more foster/adoptive families; encourage PTA members to become licensed foster/adoptive families; and continue to work with the Division of Child and Family services and the legislature to ensure that standards are not lowered in order to generate a greater number of approved foster care providers; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations, advocate for an increase in funding, a raise in the out-of-home reimbursement rate and funding for some childcare expenses of foster children to ensure quality foster homes and services; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage the legislature to pass laws that will ensure that the best interests of the child be given primary emphasis in placement matters; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage programs that would promote community support and awareness for the foster care family; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations, advocate for more Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), lighter caseloads for the guardian ad litem charged with advocating for the foster child and any other legislation or volunteerism that helps foster children have more one on one time with an advocate to promote the best interests of the child in court or on the care team; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies support educational guidelines, procedures, and laws that ensure and protect the rights of a student in foster care to a public education.

## Documentation:

- <sup>1</sup><https://dcfs.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2016-Annual-Report.pdf>, Page 4.
- <sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2018). Child Maltreatment 2016: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2012-2016. Retrieved August 18, 2018 from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2016.pdf>
- <sup>3</sup><https://dcfs.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2016-Annual-Report.pdf>, page 11.
- <sup>4</sup><http://fox13now.com/2017/05/12/resources-stretched-thin-as-more-children-entering-foster-care-in-utah-than-ever-before/> Retrieved August 18, 2018.
- <sup>5</sup><https://rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r501/r501-12.htm#T5> Retrieved August 18, 2018
- <sup>6</sup><https://utahfostercare.org/become-a-foster-parent/qualifications/>
- <sup>7</sup><https://hspolicy.utah.gov/files/dcf/DCFS%20Practice%20Guidelines/300-%20Out-of-Home%20Care%20Reimbursement%20Rates.pdf>
- <sup>8</sup> <https://childcare.utah.edu/finances/market-rates.php>
- <sup>9</sup><https://le.utah.gov/interim/2016/pdf/00004588.pdf>, page 2
- <sup>10</sup> [https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title78A/Chapter6/C78A-6-S902\\_1800010118000101.pdf](https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title78A/Chapter6/C78A-6-S902_1800010118000101.pdf)
- <sup>11</sup> By [Amy Dworsky](#) in 2011 , <https://www.chapinhall.org/research/midwest-evaluation-of-the-adult-functioning-of-former-foster-youth>
- <sup>12</sup> <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=125594259> Retrieved August 18, 2018
- <sup>13</sup> Children and Youth Services Review, Volume 22, Issue 8, August 2000, Pages 595-625, "The long-term correlates of family foster care"  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740900001080>