

POLICY ON DISCIPLINE OF FOSTER CHILDREN

All family foster homes and group homes licensed by the Department of Family Services (DFS) are required to conform to the standards established and the rules prescribed in Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 424 related to the discipline of children:

NAC 424.515 Discipline of children: Aims. ([NRS 424.020](#)) The aims of discipline are threefold:

1. To help the child accept his or her responsibility to others;
2. To help the child realize that others also have responsibilities and privileges; and
3. To help the child accept the fact there are unpleasant and difficult things which everyone must do at times.

[Welfare Div., Req. for Foster Care part § 106.5, 10-7-88, eff. 1-1-89]

NAC 424.520 Discipline of children: General requirements. ([NRS 424.020](#))

1. Discipline, to be effective, must be fair, reasonable, consistent and related to the offense.
2. Discipline must be handled with kindness and understanding and administered in such a way as to help the child develop self-control and to assume responsibility for his or her own behavior.
3. Well-defined rules setting limits on behavior must be established and made known to each child. When appropriate, children must be allowed to participate in establishing the rules, which must be displayed.
4. Appropriate and timely remedial action must be taken when children in foster care exhibit inappropriate behavior, are out of control or commit delinquent acts.
5. Consent by parents or others to punish a child contrary to the provisions of this section is void.
6. Except as otherwise provided in [NAC 424.724](#), for a specialized foster home or a foster home with which a foster care agency has entered into a contract, when serious physical intervention is required by the caregiver to protect the child, other persons or property, an incident report must be filed within 48 hours with a licensing authority representative and the caseworker of the agency responsible for the child.

[Welfare Div., Req. for Foster Care part § 106.5, 10-7-88, eff. 1-1-89]—(NAC A by Div. of Child & Fam. Services by R044-02, 7-23-2002; R110-13, 6-23-2014)

NAC 424.525 Discipline of children: Recommended behavior management techniques. ([NRS 424.020](#)) The following are recommended behavior management techniques:

1. Picking up a child who is out of control and removing him or her from the setting. This is appropriate only to younger children whose size and weight enable such action.
2. Informing the child in a simple and positive manner what conduct is expected.
3. Restriction to the child's room or other area or withholding privileges such as attending social gatherings or watching television. As used in this subsection, "social gathering" does not include an approved visit with any member of a child's family.
4. Sitting with a child until the child gains control of his or her behavior and can return to normal activities.
5. Redirecting the child to a new or different activity.
6. Praising and recognizing a child who behaves in the expected manner.
7. The use of a point system to recognize good behavior and create an incentive to improve inappropriate behavior.
8. The withdrawal of positive reinforcement for a temporary time for inappropriate behavior, including, without limitation, removal from participation in the current routine or activities or allowing the child to be alone voluntarily in a quiet, unlocked room.
9. Strategies to teach adaptive behavior which include the use of positive reinforcement.
10. Assigning consequences that are specifically related to the child's behavior.

[Welfare Div., Req. for Foster Care part § 106.5, 10-7-88, eff. 1-1-89]—(NAC A by Div. of Child & Fam. Services by R110-13, 6-23-2014)

NAC 424.530 Discipline of children: Restrictions. ([NRS 424.020](#))

1. The following are examples of unacceptable disciplinary techniques. The list is not exclusive. Foster parents shall discuss disciplinary techniques with the child's caseworker before they are used. The foster parent shall not:

- (a) Subject a child to verbal abuse, humiliate the child, threaten the child or make derogatory remarks about the child or his or her family.

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(b) Threaten to subject or subject a child to pushing, punching, shaking, rough handling, force feeding, biting, spanking, hitting of any kind, including with an implement, isolation in a closed space, such as a closet or unlit or unventilated space, or any other corporal punishment or other extreme discipline.

(c) Threaten to remove the child from the foster home.

(d) Threaten a child with the loss of love of any person.

(e) Threaten a child with punishment by a deity.

(f) Threaten to deny or deny food, shelter, medication or rest, or threaten to restrict or restrict the use of a toilet or other bathroom fixture as punishment.

(g) Threaten to subject or subject a child to any form of punishment by other children.

(h) Threaten to subject or subject a child to excessive withdrawal of positive reinforcement for inappropriate behavior, including, without limitation, removal from participation in the normal routine or activities of the foster home or requiring the child to be alone in a room for an extended period of time.

(i) Threaten to wash or wash a child’s mouth out with soap or detergent or any similar threats or acts.

(j) Threaten to tape or tape the mouth of a child or any similar threats or acts.

(k) Threaten to place or place a sauce made from hot peppers or other pungent condiment sauce in the mouth of a child or any similar threats or acts.

(l) Threaten to deprive or deprive a child of visits with significant others in the child’s life as a form of punishment when the agency placing the child has identified the visitation as appropriate.

(m) Threaten to withhold or withhold the allowance of a child provided by the agency which provides child welfare services.

(n) Subject a child to work that does not have a purpose as a means of punishment, including, without limitation, scrubbing the floor with a toothbrush, writing repetitive phrases, pulling weeds in a field of weeds, excessive exercise or any similar acts.

2. The use of a mechanical restraint, chemical restraint, involuntary physical confinement or psychological coercion or confinement of a foster child as a form of discipline is prohibited. Involuntary physical confinement does not include the withdrawal of positive reinforcement for inappropriate behavior, including, without limitation, removal from participation in the normal routine or activities of the foster home or allowing the child to be alone voluntarily in a quiet, unlocked room.

3. As used in this section:

(a) “Chemical restraint” means the administration of drugs for the specific and exclusive purpose of controlling an acute or episodic aggressive behavior when alternative intervention techniques have failed to limit or control the behavior. The term does not include the administration of drugs on a regular basis, as prescribed by a physician, to treat the symptoms of a mental, physical, emotional or behavioral disorder and for assisting a child in gaining self-control over his or her impulses.

(b) “Mechanical restraint” means the use of any device, including, without limitation, mittens, straps, a restraint chair, handcuffs, belly chains and a four-point restraint, to limit a child’s movement or hold a child immobile.

[Welfare Div., Req. for Foster Care part § 106.5, 10-7-88, eff. 1-1-89]—(NAC A by Div. of Child & Fam. Services, 8-27-92; 11-14-97; R044-02, 7-23-2002; R110-13, 6-23-2014)

I/We (print names) _____

agree to adhere to the DFS policy on discipline as set forth in the above policy.

Foster Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Foster Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Licensing Representative _____ Date _____