

Important Numbers:

F.A.S.T.

1-800-FAST-119

1-800-327-8119

FAST Team Member

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

DCF Investigator or Local Law
Enforcement

Name _____

Phone# _____

Licensing Agent

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Other Important Number

Name: _____

Phone: _____



Support is a phone call, text or
email away

Prevention Guidelines

- Obtain full information about the child proposed for placement.
- Obtain details on special behaviors.
- Obtain details of any medical conditions.
- Obtain specific training to deal with special needs.
- Consider carefully what risks, if any, the placement may involve in your family.



Strengthening FAMILIES
for a stronger FLORIDA

**SUPPORT IS A PHONE
CALL, TEXT OR EMAIL
AWAY**



F.A.S.T.

**Florida's
Foster
Allegation
Support
Team**

**Support is available to foster,
adoptive and relative caregivers.**

1-800-FAST-119

fast@floridafapa.org

PURPOSE

- ◆ Our goal is to provide support when an allegation has been or might be brought against a foster, adoptive or relative placement.
- ◆ It is important to keep the caregiver informed of the procedures and the process an allegation takes them.
- ◆ F.A.S.T. provides support without judgment and an environment which is as non-destructive as possible for the caregiver and their families.

DCF or the Contracted Provider is governed by an investigative response outlined in operating procedure 175-21

<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/admin/publications/policies/175-21.pdf>

Pointers for dealing with an allegation

- Call FAST hotline for support.
- FAST is to prepare you *if & when* an allegation is filed on you. It's okay to stop and breathe.
- Keep a complete written journal of all dates, times, events and communications
- Be a partner and insist on having full input into the investigations.
- Request assistance from DCF or the CBC in explaining to children what is happening and why.
- Maintain your sense of professionalism when cooperating with the investigation.

Impact on Families

- ◆ Trauma: Foster Parents express shock and disbelief.
- ◆ Betrayal: Foster parents feel their main source of support can no longer talk to them.
- ◆ Stigma: Foster Parents report feelings of shame, humiliation, inadequacy, and lowered self esteem.
- ◆ Powerlessness: Foster Parents often feel they have little information regarding the allegation due to the lengthy and complex process.

Did you know you are entitled to a '120 Hearing' if your home is being closed and you are not in agreement?