

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 Numbers

Name: _____

Phone: _____



Support is a
phone call 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.



SUPPORT IS A PHONE CALL AWAY



Florida State Foster/Adoptive Parent Association, Inc.

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 to the foster parent when an allegation has been or might be brought against him or her.

It is important to keep foster parents informed of the procedures and the process through which an allegation will take them.

We provide support without judgment in an environment which is as non-destructive as possible for the foster parents 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 against you. It's okay to stop and breathe.
- Keep a complete written journal of all dates, times, events and communications.
- Insist on giving 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 as foster parents by 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?