



POINTERS FOR DEALING WITH AN ALLEGATION

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

F.A.S.T.

1-800-FAST-119 // 1-800-327-8119

F.A.S.T.

**FLORIDA'S
FOSTER
ALLEGATION
SUPPORT TEAM**

▶ CALL F.A.S.T. 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.

FAST Team Member

Name _____

Phone: _____

**DCF Investigator or
Local Law Enforcement**

Name _____

Phone: _____

Licensing Agent

Name _____

Phone: _____

Other Important Number

Name _____

Phone: _____

**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.



YOU ARE NOT ALONE SUPPORT IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY

ALLEGATIONS AND 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.

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>

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

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.