

California Child Welfare Council
Work Group on Healthy Sexual Development of Youth in Foster Care
Newly Enacted Responsible and Prudent Standard (RPPS)
December 9, 2015

I. Introduction

- Senate Bill 794 (Chapter 425, Statutes of 2015), added new training and staffing requirements pertaining to the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard (RPPS) and amended the definition of RPPS to include the encouragement of emotional and developmental growth of the child, thus bringing the California Welfare and Intuitions Code in alignment with federal standards.
- The Intent of RPPS supports the empowerment of a caregiver to exercise common sense and good judgment to assess circumstances and events in which a foster child may participate.

II. How RPPS may be used to address Healthy Sexual Development of youth in foster care

- RPPS supports foster parents in making decisions regarding participation in age appropriate activities, which may include dating in either a group setting or individually if appropriate.
- RPPS allows for ongoing, open, age appropriate discussions between foster parents and foster youth about sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and reproduction.
- RPPS encourages foster parents to provide accessible and reliable information to foster youth about sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and reproduction.
- RPPS promotes positive exchanges that will affect adolescents' overall wellbeing and potentially their health throughout their lives.

III. Process for the development of new regulations

- The Community Care Licensing (CCL) Division within the Department of Social Services begins drafting regulations, working with the Legal Division to confirm accuracy.
- Stakeholder's comments are included to validate that the regulations are suitable.
- After the regulations are written they are submitted to Office of Regulations Development (ORD).
- ORD will approve the regulation and submit them to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and finally to the Secretary of State for publication.

IV. Timeline for the regulations

- The anticipated date for CCL submission to ORD is early 2016.
- ORD has one year to complete the necessary steps before submitting to OAL for final approval.
- Upon approval by OAL, the regulations are submitted to the Secretary of State and become effective quarterly.

V. Next Steps

- CCL will begin working with the Legal Division on developing regulations to help guide foster parents, resource parents and Short-Term Residential Treatment Center providers to allow greater flexibility around the prudent parent standard in supporting the healthy sexual development of youth in foster care.
- CCL looks forward to working with stakeholders, including the Child Welfare Council's Work Group on Supporting the Healthy Sexual Development of Youth in Foster Care, to produce regulations that are both thoughtful and helpful for providers and youth.