Rights of a Resource Parent

At the initial placement, at any time during the placement, and as soon as new information becomes available, resource parents have the right to receive complete information from the child's DSS caseworker on the physical, social, emotional, educational, and mental history of the child, except for privileged or confidential information about the family members.

Except for meetings covered by attorney-client privilege or meetings in which confidential information about the birth parents is discussed, the resource parent has the right to:

- Be notified of scheduled meetings about the child concerning the child's case plan, administrative case reviews, interdisciplinary staffings, individual educational planning and mental health team meetings;
- Be informed of decisions made by the courts and child welfare agency about the child;
- Provide input about the plan of services for the child and have that input given full consideration by DSS;
- Be given written notice of plans to terminate the child's placement with the resource parent unless the child is determined to be in imminent risk of harm or court ordered;
- Receive timely and appropriate board payments for the child's care;
- Receive timely compensation for allowable expenses;
- Have liability and insurance coverage for certain losses a resource parent may sustain in accordance with COMAR 07.02.25.23; and
- Be provided with the child's case plan and visitation plan and schedule.

Before any judicial proceeding, unless waived for good cause, you shall be given at least 10 days' written notice by the local department of the date, time and place of proceeding and the right to be heard at the proceeding. Md. Courts and Judicial Proceedings Code Ann.§ 3-816.3

You shall be given the right to be heard at judicial proceedings. Md. Courts and Judicial Proceedings Code Ann.§ 3-816.3

The right to appeal a local department decision to suspend, revoke, or terminate a resource home approval in accordance with COMAR 07.01.04

The resource parent has the option to be considered as an adoptive home for children who have been in their home continuous for at least one year when reunification is not viable, and a plan of adoption is developed.

Resource parents who wish to adopt a foster child in their care and who wish to contest the local department's decision to place the child with another resource family may, within 30 days from the removal of a child, file with the local department a request for a fair hearing.

If you believe your rights have been violated, then talk to your social worker and be clear about your concerns. You may also speak with your social worker's supervisor, program manager or administrator. The Resource Parent Ombuds can be helpful when you have sincerely worked with the chain of command regarding specific issues and are still not satisfied.

References: COMAR 07.02.25.07; COMAR 07.02.25.19A & D, COMAR 07.02.25.06.D(14), and Md. Family Law Code Ann. Section § 5-504

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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