

Safety in Foster Care- Information Sheet

What:

Children in foster care are very safe. Data from 2008 through 2012 consistently shows that in Sacramento County 99.6% of children in foster care did not have a substantiated allegation of abuse or neglect by a foster parent or substitute care provider.

Why:

Foster Care is regulated by laws that provides for the provision of Personal Rights for children in foster care. Foster parents receive training and backgrounds are checked to provide as much assurances of safety as possible. This standard is more stringent than those applied to biological parents.

How:

- Foster Parents and substitute care providers receive extensive training prior to being licensed as a foster parent. In Sacramento County, foster care applicants receive Parent Resource Information Development and Education (PRIDE), training prior to becoming licensed. This is a nine week curriculum that educates the potential caregivers on the Foster Care regulations and personal rights of foster children. This includes the restriction of physical and emotional punishment against a foster child.
- The Sacramento County Foster Parent Association is an organization that supports foster parents. Sacramento County collaborates extensively with the Foster Parent Association and has the Shared Leadership committee that addresses issues confronting foster parents. The intent of the collaboration is to increase the support for foster parents in obtaining needed services for the children in care.
- The Quality of Care In-box has been developed for County staff to identify foster parents who may be providing marginal care. Coordination with Community Care licensing has made for a proactive approach to intervening with foster parents that may need additional training and education regarding the needs of foster children and how to intervene positively with the foster child.
- Foster Family Agencies (FFA) who are accredited by a recognized accreditation agency are given preference in receiving referrals for placement of Sacramento County Dependent Children. Accreditation is one measure to assure higher quality amongst FFA providers. All other non-accredited FFAs enter into an MOU with Sacramento County to measure outcome objectives to better assure quality.