

SEPTEMBER 25, 2012

## Confidentiality Laws for Foster Parents

### Are you following them?

Understanding and upholding Iowa's confidentiality laws is one of the most complex issues for foster parents to adhere to. These laws are intended to protect the privacy of foster children and their biological families. All information regarding foster children, which is obtained through or from the Department of Human Services is confidential, according to Iowa Code. This includes identifying information such as name, social security number, age, sex, weight, height, contact information on the family, physical and mental health conditions, etc.

### Free Booklet on Confidentiality

**Confidentiality—A Guide for Foster Parents** is a free booklet published by IFAPA. This booklet will help you understand the complicated issue of confidentiality in an easy-to-understand, quick-read format. It will guide you through sticky issues, such as sharing information with teachers, daycare personnel, and medical professionals. Find definite answers on how and what to say to your family, friends, and neighbors about your foster child and so much more. **To request a free copy (or multiple copies) of this booklet, please e-mail Crystal Thomason at [cthomason@ifapa.org](mailto:cthomason@ifapa.org) or call 800-277-8145 ext. 5. Iowa social workers can also request free copies.**

#### NEW! -- Addendums to Confidentiality Booklet:

**Confidentiality pertaining to using cell phones and Facebook**  
[www.ifapa.org/pdf\\_docs/confidentialityaddendumcellphonefacebook.pdf](http://www.ifapa.org/pdf_docs/confidentialityaddendumcellphonefacebook.pdf)

**Confidentiality pertaining to child care providers**  
[www.ifapa.org/pdf\\_docs/confidentialityaddendumdaycareproviders.pdf](http://www.ifapa.org/pdf_docs/confidentialityaddendumdaycareproviders.pdf)

## WHAT IS CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?

A new fact sheet developed by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), *What Is Child Sexual Abuse?*, highlights various forms of sexual victimization and their distinctive signs and symptoms. This fact sheet summarizes common behavioral red flags displayed by sexually abused children. A checklist of warning signs to help with the detection and identification are also provided, including:

- Bodily signs (i.e., bedwetting, stomachaches)
- Emotional signs (i.e., fear, sadness, acting out)
- Sexual signs (i.e., inappropriate sexual behavior)
- Verbal signs (i.e., non-age-appropriate sexual activities)

[http://nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/Publications\\_NSVRC\\_Factsheet\\_Media-Packet\\_What-is-CSA.pdf](http://nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/Publications_NSVRC_Factsheet_Media-Packet_What-is-CSA.pdf)

### FREE CLASS FOR PARENTS



### SOLVING THE PUZZLE: AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

(Trainer: Dr. Warren Phillips—6 hours credit)

This workshop will provide parents with information about Autism Spectrum Disorders, how they are diagnosed and what treatment options are available. Parents will also learn:

- how children with autism learn and process information
- how their behavior might be misunderstood by peers, adults, and professionals
- ways to promote success at home, school, and in the community
- specific methods for handling anxiety, anger, and overstimulation

### CLASS LOCATIONS:

Cedar Rapids—Sept. 29 (9am-4:30pm)

Ames—Oct. 6 (9am-4:30pm)

Independence—Oct. 13 (9am-4:30pm)

Mason City—Dec. 8 (9am-4:30pm)

ADDITIONAL LOCATION ADDED

### COMMENTS ON TRAINER:

- *"I always enjoy Dr. Phillips' trainings, he is personable and it's nice to hear specific situations."*
- *"Dr. Phillips is an excellent speaker and gave me lots of helpful information!"*
- *"Thank you Dr. Phillips for sharing all of your knowledge!"*

To register, call 800-277-8145 ext. 1 or visit:  
[www.ifapa.org/training/training\\_registration\\_form.asp](http://www.ifapa.org/training/training_registration_form.asp)

SAVE THE  
**Adoption**  
TAX CREDIT

**If Congress does not act, the tax credit as we know it will expire on December 31, 2012.** And as the law currently stands, the adoption credit is not refundable for 2012 as it was in 2010 and 2011.

On Friday, September 21, Senators Landrieu (D-LA), Blunt (R-MO), Hutchison (R-TX) and Cardin (D-MD) introduced **S. 3616 – Making Adoptions Affordable Act** (the companion to House bill H.R. 4373). There are now bills in both the House and the Senate that would accomplish the goal of an adoption tax credit that is inclusive of all adoption types, flat for special needs adoptions, refundable, and permanent.

**When will this be considered in Congress?**

The adoption tax credit is likely to be included in a package of other tax credits to be considered by Congress sometime after the November election. At this time, it is uncertain whether Congress will make the adoption credit refundable in any end-of-year extension. The North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) is working hard to get refundability included and need your help to show members of Congress that refundability helps foster care adoption and lower to middle income tax filers. One of the most effective ways is for families to tell their members of Congress personal stories of how refundability affects their adoption story.

**Action:**

Please **e-mail or call your two U.S. Senators** and ask them to cosponsor S. 3616. If you need to find your Senators, visit the following link:

[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm).

If you are planning to call, you can call the Capitol Operator at 202-224-3121. Once you reach the Senator's office, ask to talk with the legislative assistant who deals with adoption or tax issues. (You'll have to call back to reach the second Senator.) NACAC has prepared advocacy resources for families: <http://adoptiontaxcredit.org/advocate/>.

If you have not already contacted your member of the House of Representatives to ask him or her to co-sponsor H.R. 4373, a similar bill on the House side, you can also do that now. Find your Representative at the following link:

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>. You can use the contact information you find at that link or call Capitol Operator number above to reach your Representative.

## NEW CASEY SKILLS ASSESSMENT

Effective immediately, there is a new version of the Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment- now called **Casey Life Skills Assessment** or "CLSA"! Iowa utilizes this assessment as a "tool" to identify life skills strengths and needs for youth in out of home placement starting at age 16.

For those of you who have used the old version of the assessment, it will go off-line on September 30, 2012. You will no longer follow the previous instructions/procedures to log into the website. Please delete all previous instructions to date as they are no longer accurate. The youth's JCO/DHS worker will send an email to the provider/foster parent or youth with a link for that youth to access the assessment. If you have not received an email request, but the youth would like to complete the CLSA, please request the email link from your worker. If your youth does not have access to email, a hard-copy can be given to them instead. **DHS asks that provider agencies do not go to the website and "Create their own account" as this will not allow the youth to have ongoing access to their assessments if their provider changes.** Also having youth complete assessments under a provider account may create confidentiality issues for the youth.

DHS has created a short webinar for you to view that will explain the process of how to have your youth take the CLSA, and how to use the results of the assessment to continue to work with the youth on improving their life skills for chances of a more successful transition to adulthood. To view this webinar go to the DHS Service Training website: <http://servicetraining.hs.iastate.edu/>. Use the navigation bar at the top of the screen and go to "Resources" and scroll down to "Webinars" and then click on "Casey Life Skills Assessment for Providers". DHS has also created an instruction sheet: [www.ifapa.org/pdf\\_docs/CLSAInstructions.pdf](http://www.ifapa.org/pdf_docs/CLSAInstructions.pdf) for easy reference when you have a youth that needs an assessment.

If you have any questions or issues using the new Casey Life Skills Assessment, please contact the Transition Planning Specialist for your Service Area. This updated version is more "Youth-Friendly" and more useful for everyone!

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## IOWA AFTERCARE SERVICES NETWORK

Iowa Aftercare Services Network is a statewide program that addresses the needs of young adults who have aged-out of foster care. Aftercare provides support & opportunities designed to help young adults between the ages of 18 and 21 meet the challenges of living independently and achieving self-sufficiency. Participation is voluntary, and available to those who meet eligibility requirements. For more info, call 800-443-8336 or visit: [www.iowaaftercare.org](http://www.iowaaftercare.org).