



Alabama
Foster & Adoptive
Parent Association

Newsletter



JUNE 2025

A Publication of the Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association



LOVE MAKES A FAMILY.

AFAPA's mission is to provide education & support to Foster, Adoptive, & Kinship families all across Alabama.

**ADOPT.
IF YOU CAN'T ADOPT
FOSTER.
IF YOU CAN'T FOSTER
ADVOCATE.
IF YOU CAN'T ADVOCATE
DONATE.
IF YOU CAN'T DONATE
VOLUNTEER.
IF YOU CAN'T VOLUNTEER
EDUCATE.**



**Ask me how you can
help a foster child**



PLEASE CONTACT:

Buddy Hooper at 256-507-3273
or email: buddy@afapa.org



A message from the President



The past several months have been a busy time for AFAPA and me. It has been very helpful to me to have volunteers helping with picking up Walmart donations in the last few months. That frees me up to do other needful things for AFAPA. Foster, Adoptive, and Kinship families have benefited from these donations. We have taken trailer loads to several counties, not only to foster parents but also Kinship parents. We have donated to many counties across the state. I still go to as many tips classes as I'm invited to and when I can't go it's good to be able to call another board member who is willing to step in and do it.

We are working with several counties trying to get association meetings again. We need to get others going again. If any of you need help in your region just let me know. The Shocco Conference was well attended this year with lots of very good training topics. We are already planning for 2026.

It was another successful year for Scholarships. We were able to give at least a \$500 scholarship to all that turned in a valid application. There were more than 30 Scholarships awarded.

William Buddy Hooper, President AFAPA

AFAPA TRAINING SCHEDULE

July 6th, 2:00 PM

Calhoun County Weaver Community Center

July 8th, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Vaughn Forest Church in Montgomery,
Lite dinner and child care provided. **GIVE AWAYS!**

TRAINING TOPICS:

Effective Communication and Understanding Trauma.



Dolly Parton Imagination Library, the intent is to inspire a love for reading by gifting free books to children that are birth to age five. Children in the Department's custody that meet the age criteria will receive books monthly. The books will be mailed to their home in care of their foster parent.

SDHR will be registering eligible children to be participants in the Imagination Library program. Foster parents be on lookout for more information about this.

"When I was growing up in the hills of East Tennessee, I knew my dreams would come true. I know there are children in your community with their own dreams. They dream of becoming a doctor or an inventor or a minister. Who knows, maybe there is a little girl whose dream is to be a writer and singer.

The seeds of these dreams are often found in books and the seeds you help plant in your community can grow across the world."

Dolly Parton



FOSTER PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS

It has been more than 21 years since the Foster Parent Bill of Rights was established by the Alabama State Legislature. Over the past 21 years AFAPA has been around the state training foster parents and DHR workers about the FPBR. There are new foster parents and new DHR workers who have not received the training.

WE ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO SCHEDULING TRAINING IN COUNTIES TO DOING IT FOR BOTH FOSTER PARENTS AND WORKERS.

The following are questions that might be asked about each one of the foster parent bill of rights.

1. Have you been treated with dignity, respect, trust, value and consideration as a primary provider of foster care and a member of the professional team caring for foster children?
2. Have you received information about the Foster Parent Bill of Rights?
3. Have you received a concise written explanation of your role as a foster parent?
4. Have you been offered training and support to improve your skills to care for your foster children?
5. Have you received training on foster care policy, foster parent handbook, foster family homes minimum standards, the Therapeutic Foster Care Manual, and the Conflict Resolution Process?
6. Have you had the opportunity to provide input to the department in identifying the types of resources and services that would meet the needs of children in your care and have you been able to advocate for these services without threat of reprisal?
7. Have you been given current and accurate information about the children who are placed with you?
8. Have you been given written explanations of the plan for the placement of the children in your home? Have you been given information that would allow you to determine if this is a proper placement for your family?
9. Do you have a staff person representing the department on call 24 hours a day seven days a week to aid you in receiving departmental assistance?
10. Do you receive a fair and equitable board payment? Are you able to care for the children in your care with the amount of board payment you receive?
11. Have you felt like you could refuse placements in your home without threat of reprisal?
12. Have you received information about meetings and appointments concerning your foster child? Have you been able to give input to the ISP team to be used in the case planning decision-making process? Does the ISP work for you?

13. Have you had the right to request an advocate to be present with you at all meetings with the department, including, but not limited to, ISP's, administrative hearings, the conflict resolution process, the adoption process, and the allegation process? Have you ever been denied the right to have an advocate present with you?
14. Have you received notice and an opportunity to be heard concerning all court hearings involving the child in your care?
15. Have you had the right to communicate with professionals who work with the foster child in your care?
16. Have you had the right to communicate with the child's birth family, other foster parents of the child, and prospective and finalized adoptive parents of the child with ISP approval and without threat of reprisal?
17. Have you received necessary information relevant to the care or the child in your care?
18. Have you been given the first consideration as a resource as an adoptive parent for the child in your care?
19. Have you been advised of your rights to respite care and have you been given respite when requested as per respite policy?
20. Have you been given information about any allegations of children in your home? Have you been given information about the allegation process? Were you given a written report within 5 days of allegations that were found to be not indicated on the county level?
21. Have you been given the right to copies of all information related to your family and services contained in the personal foster home record?
22. Have you been offered the right to a mediation process when a conflict has gone unresolved?
23. Have you been given the right to appeal the closing of a foster family home by the department in accordance with the appeal procedure, which is also the conflict resolution process and without threat of reprisal?

If you can answer no to any of these questions AFAPA would like to hear from you. You can email afapa@afapa.org or phone 1-888-545-2372. Your calls and emails will be kept confidential, and information will not be shared without your permission.



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AFAPA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

The Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Association elected executive board members to serve on the AFAPA board beginning October 1st, 2025 to September 30th, 2027.

Megan Masica, Secretary

Stacy Justice, Vice-President for Kinship Care

William “Buddy” Hooper, President

Darla Works-Nelson, Treasurer

Mary Smith, Vice-President for Foster Care

Misty Woodham, Vice-President for Adoption



AFAPA NEWSLETTER INFO:

Articles can be submitted to Buddy Hooper, Editor. E-mail submissions should be addressed to afapa@afapa.org. Otherwise, mail to AFAPA 1091 County Road 1659 Cullman, AL 35058.