

POLICY AND PROCEDURE PERTAINING TO DISCIPLINE FOR CHILD FOSTER CARE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines that provide direction and promote positive support strategies relating to discipline. In addition, to protect the safety and well-being of the child in their home and to reduce the risk of abuse resulting from inappropriate discipline of a child.

POLICY

It is the policy of EON, Inc. to ensure the health and safety of the children served, ensure training, and discipline in accordance with this policy, Minnesota Rules, part 2960.3080 Placement, Continued Stay and Discharge Subp. 8 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/2960.3080/> and EON, Inc.'s Policy and Procedure Pertaining to Reporting and Review of Maltreatment of Minors.

EON, Inc. will consider the child's abuse history and developmental, cultural, disability, and gender needs when deciding the disciplinary action to be taken with the child.

PROCEDURE

- I. Children must not be subjected to:
 - A. Corporal punishment, including, but not limited to: rough handling, shoving, ear or hair pulling, shaking, slapping, kicking, biting, pinching, hitting, throwing objects at the child, or spanking;
 - B. Verbal abuse, including, but not limited to: name calling; derogatory statements about the child or child's family, race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or culture; or statements intended to shame, threaten, humiliate, or frighten the child;
 - C. Punishment for lapses in toilet habits, including bed wetting or soiling;
 - D. Withholding of basic needs, including, but not limited to: a nutritious diet, drinking water, clothing, hygiene facilities, normal sleeping conditions, proper lighting, educational services, exercise activities, ventilation and proper temperature, mail, family visits, positive reinforcement, nurturing, or medical care. However, a child who destroys bedding or clothing, or uses these or other items to hurt the child's self or others, may be deprived of such articles according to the child's case plan;
 - E. Assigning work that is dangerous or not consistent with the child's case plan;
 - F. Disciplining one child for the unrelated behavior or action of another, except for the imposition of restrictions on the child's peer group as part of a recognized treatment program;
 - G. Restrictions on a child's communications beyond the restrictions specified in the child's treatment plan or case plan, unless the restriction is approved by the child's case manager; and
 - H. Requirements to assume uncomfortable or fixed positions for an extended length of time, or to march, stand, or kneel as punishment.

- II. EON, Inc.:
 - A. Will not require a child to punish other children;
 - B. Will follow the child's case plan regarding discipline;
 - C. Will not use mechanical restraints or seclusion, as defined in part 2960.3010, subpart 38, with a foster child;
 - D. Will ensure that the duration of time-out is appropriate to the age of the child; and
 - E. Will meet the requirements of part 9525.2700, subpart 2, item F, regarding the use of aversive or deprivation procedures with a foster child who has mental retardation or a related condition.
- III. Training:
 - A. Before providing direct contact, staff will:
 - 1. Staff will receive training on this policy.
 - 2. EON, Inc. will document this training, monitor implementation by staff, and ensure the policy is readily accessible to staff.

REFERENCED POLICIES

Policy and Procedure Pertaining to Reporting and Review of Maltreatment of Minors

REFERENCED FORMS

None

REFERENCED WEBSITES

Minnesota Rules, part 2960.3080 Placement, Continued Stay and Discharge Subp. 8
<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/2960.3080/> ,