**JANUARY 2022** 



# NEWSLETTER

## RESOURCE/ RELATIVE/ FICTIVE KIN/ ADOPTIVE PARENTS

# Car Seat Update

There has been an update that went into effect on January 1st, 2022, regarding child passengers and safety for the state of Nevada.

Previously, a child passenger must use a child restraint system until they are at least 6 years old and 60 pounds. This has change started at the beginning of the new year.

The state will eliminate the weight requirement and has instead replaced it with a height requirement.

Children passengers less than 6 years old and less than 57 inches tall, (that's 4'9") must ride in an approved child restraint system.

They have also added that children under 2 years of age must ride in a rear-facing child safety seat.

This is the minimum requirement set forth by the state but remember that we always want to select the safest restraint system for our children.

For questions about fit or seat selection, please reach out to me.

## Buckle Up!

#### The Laws of Nevada Nevada Revised Statutes

require front and rear seat occupants of almost all passenger vehicles to wear safety belts or ride in an approved child restraint system. (NRS 484D.495 and 484B.157)

The Laws of Physics If you crash or slam on your brakes, your car comes to a sudden stop. But you will keep moving until you, too,

are stopped – by the wind-shield, dashboard, pavement or seat belt.

#### Air Bags



Air bags are more effective when you're buckled up and can be dangerous if you're not. You should be seated at least 10" away from the air bag as measured from the center of the steering wheel to your breastbone

Air bags should be turned off only for those with certain medical conditions, those who cannot sit 10" away and when transporting young children in the

Never place a rear-facing child safety seat in front of an air bag! Children under 12 should ride in

Expectant mothers should buckle up and leave the air bag on. Never place the lap belt above or on

Did you know?



#### Child Seat Law

Any child less than 6 years of age who is less than 57 inches tall must ride in an approved child restraint system. Children under 2 years old must ride in a rear-facing safety seat in the back seat of the vehicle. (NRS 484B.157 effective January 1, 2022)

#### **Best Practices**

Keep children in the back seat until at least age 12. Select a car seat based on your child's age and size and use it every time.

#### Birth - 2 Years

Use a rear-facing car seat through age 1 and until your baby reaches the seat manufacturer's height and weight limits. 2-3 Years



Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. Then use a forward-facing toddler seat with a harness until your toddler outgrows that seat's limits.

#### 4 – 7 Years Once your child has outgrown the seat with a



Use safety belts once they fit properly. The lap belt

should lie across the thighs, not the stomach. The

harness, use a booster seat until he or she is large enough for seat belts. Stay in the back seat. 8 – 12 Years 🔏 4

#### shoulder belt should not cross the neck or face.

Seat Belt Tips Never use just a lap belt across a child sitting in a booster seat designed for shoulder belts.

Never use pillows, books, or towels to boost a child. They can slide around and hit the occupant.

Never put a shoulder belt behind anyone's arm or back because it eliminates the protection for the upper part of the body and increases the risk of severe injury in a crash.

#### Kids Aren't Cargo!

Passengers under 18 may not ride in the back of a pickup or flatbed truck. This does not apply to farming and ranching activity, parades or to camper shells or slide-in campers. (NRS 484B.160)



zero **Fatalities** 

dmvnv.com | zerofatalitiesnv.com Updated September 2021

An EPSDT (early periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment) exam MUST be scheduled within 7 days of a child entering foster care and periodically thereafter (see the screening schedule **here**). Please invite and inform biological parents to participate and attend appointments unless prohibited from doing so by the case manager. Additionally, it is your responsibility to keep the agency updated on medical, dental, vision, behavioral health, and emergency

appointments for a child in your care. In order for the agency to create and maintain an accurate "medical passport" for all children, please fill out the MonthlyMedHistoryForm-

Washoe.pdf (qpinevada.org) and email it to your caseworker.

#### **Medical Unit:** 775.284.2763

Drive Safe Nevada

Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) 2097 Longley Lane, Reno, NV 89502 next door to Kids Kottage



Bridges is a mandatory training for all resource parents and is offered throughout the year to ensure all resource parents have the opportunity to attend. Please sign up at your earliest convenience.

Please contact Matt Polly for more information or to register. MPolley@washoecounty.gov

# **NEWSLETTER**

## **Contacts**

Below are some of the most common phone numbers you will/may need while being a resource parent, relative, kin, or adoptive parent.

Center Street Front desk: 775.785.8600

**Emergency After hours number:** 1.833.900.7233

In case you have an emergency that occurs after hours please call.

Family Engagement Center (FEC): 775.352.3230

905 E Prater Way, Sparks, NV 89434 Corner of Prater and Howard

Medical Unit: 775.284.2763

Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) 2097 Longley Lane, Reno, NV 89502 next door to Kids Kottage

Foster Care Services Front Desk: 775.337.4470

Foster Care Licensing Supervisor:

Melissa Coates: 775.815.3827

Licensing team: Call or text
Codi Soap: 775.842.1992
Barbara Jaime: 775.842.1704
Jessica Shepherd: 775.622.6919
Anastasia Cooper: 775.560.7773

Sandra Espino: 775.530.6373

**QPI Liaison:** Kylee Spring: 775.530.1646

kspring@washoecounty.gov

If you have questions or need any type of support don't hesitate to call, text or email Kylee Spring & your licensing worker.

- Resource Parent Advisory Board support group is the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at 11:00am-12:00. Please contact kspring@washoecounty.gov to RSVP
- Adoptive Parent Therapeutic Support Group: Please contact <u>jcasarez@washoecounty.gov</u> or <u>danderson@washoecounty.gov</u> for any question or if you want to attend
- Relative Support Group: Every Thursday at 7pm. Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73578283111?pwd=Y2R2eEVKV0RzU0I5VjRjZWZNNmhUQT09">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73578283111?pwd=Y2R2eEVKV0RzU0I5VjRjZWZNNmhUQT09</a> Meeting ID: 735 7828 3111 
  Passcode: qp4zU6
- **Be in the Loop Group:** Be in the loop group is a monthly meeting where WCHSA staff, resource parents, and birth parents meet and work collaboratively to improve Quality Parenting within Washoe County. This meeting is held the **Third Thursday** of every month at 10:00 am on TEAMS. We would love for you to join. Please email Kylee Spring at <a href="mailto:kspring@washoecounty.gov">kspring@washoecounty.gov</a> to be added to the invite

#### REMINDER

We are trying to get more support groups together especially in Spanish! Please email Kylee Spring at kspring@washoecounty.gov if you would like to start a support group. Kylee can help make that happen!



If ANY household members exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19, even if mild, OR if they have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person, OR if anyone in the household tests positive for COVID-19, that they must:

- 1. Contact the health department or their medical provider for guidance on testing.
- 2. Immediately self-isolate the household until medically cleared. This includes any in-person contact including visitation, meetings, appointments etc.
- 3. Notify the child(ren)'s caseworker(s) and the licensing worker within the same business day.

## New Training updates:

#### **QPI WEBSITE:**

#### HTTP://WWW.QPINEVADA.ORG/

Below are amazing new trainings that are on the QPI website. You can receive renewal training hours for these trainings!

Providing Support to Youth Who Have Experienced Toxic Stress

This video provides an overview of adverse childhood experiences and toxic stress, how toxic stress shows up in behavior and beliefs, as well as how to support youth who have experienced or are experiencing toxic stress. Presented by licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Barbara Lankamp-Kochis .(0.5 hour)

Tools for Maintaining African American Hair

This training addresses questions many foster parents have about caring for ethnic hair types. The training interviews two barbers on hair care routines, needs, and how to maintain the hair of foster youth. Many foster parents have questions and want to hear it from the experts. (0.5 hour)

#### Creating Permanency for Youth

Youth transitioning out of foster care often come out at a disadvantage. The norm they had grown accustom to where supportive adults fulfill specific needs typically comes to an end when they leave foster care. However, that's when they actually need more supportive people and this training addresses the need. This training is designed to help caretakers have the conversations needed to discover the supports youth will have when they leave care. (1.5 hour)

Taking the Blame Off Kids: Understanding Systems and the Ecological Model

Exploration of the Ecological Model as an effective way of understanding family dynamics and individual behavior within larger systems and communities. This presentation includes information specific to children and youth in foster care. (0.5 hour)

#### Child Centered Strategies for Supporting Families

Children from hard places manifest the trauma they have experienced in many different ways. Caregivers report the child in their care acting out in ways such as running away, lying, stealing, and arguing but also with children who shut down, become isolated, and stop communicating. Despite the services and trainings available to support families, caregivers often report they continue to feel unprepared and not provided with adequate tools to support children who display significant intensity of behaviors in their home display. This panel will provide a brief overview of recent media events highlighting caregiver's responses to the behaviors of the children in their homes and engage participants in a discussion in approaches to assist in the moment. The panel will be interactive, providing a significant question and answer segment as well (1.5 hour)





# Learn 2 Live - Youth Training

Learn 2 Live is an 8-week virtual youth training! These trainings are for youth 14 years and older. These trainings are fun and engaging for our youth and there has been positive feedback from the past sessions.

Please click the link below to learn more and register!

CLICK HERE FOR L2L FLYER



# The first ever Virtual Profile Party was a success!

The first ever Virtual Profile Party was a success! We had the opportunity to bring children looking for forever families into your home with the ease of a Virtual Profile Party. This event featured in-depth profiles of over 32 children alongside the assigned Case Workers and agency Recruiters to answer questions and provide insight into who the kids are. We had over 40 licensed providers logon to the event and the participation was so invaluable! After the event, our recruitment and training team received dozens of inquiries about the children featured and we are feeling warm and fuzzy about the prospective matches that are bound to happen as a result of the event. The Recruitment and Training team along with WCHSA Case Workers want to thank-you all for making the time to join us and learn more about the children right here in our community who are in search of a loving forever family. For adoption focused families who were unable to attend, we are hopeful you will attend our next event. Connecting with the Agency to learn about the children in recruitment is an expected and exciting part of the adoption process.

The overwhelming sentiment is an in-person mixer event is something our families would like to attend, and we are already in the planning phase of getting that scheduled, stay tuned!

Big Shout out to Adoption Family Manager, Mitch Matthews for organizing the event and to all the agency case workers and recruiters! We appreciate them making the time to join us and speak from the heart. Thank-you



# NEWSLETTER

# Interested in Adoption?

# **Deborah**

11-years-old

**100% FREE** 

This delightful girl will captivate you by her sweet smile and pleasant attitude! Deborah enjoys playing with others and tends to find similar interests as those around her. She enjoys reading in her down time and gets excited when she finds a new author to explore! In her afterschool program, Deborah has been taking on new leadership roles. She recently became the Secretary of a leadership group and is developing more responsibilities. She is social and enjoys interacting with everyone in this program. Deborah loves helping, and askes for tasks and chores to do, to assist her teachers and caregivers. She even received a certificate for being an amazing helper! Deborah has been enjoying cooking and joined a weekly cooking club!

Deborah will do best in a home where she is either an only child, or as the youngest in the home. She will also benefit from a family who understands the importance of a structured environment.

If you interested in learning more about Deborah, you may contact Myra Yeargan, (775)560-8913 myeargan@washoecounty.gov





## Andre'

14-years-old

#### 100% FREE FOR ADOPTION

Andre' is a sweet, well-spoken youth with a great sense of humor. She can be shy when she's first getting to know you, but it doesn't take her long to warm up and show her true "chatty", outgoing self. Andre' likes poetry, art and listen to records, or as she likes to call them, "vinyl's". She is smart and school is important to her. She is currently participating in choir and hopes to get involved in other school activities/clubs.

Overall, Andre' is a typical teen who wants to be able to hang out with her friends and live a typical teen life. Still, she longs for the permanency of a family and is looking for one who shares her love of animals. Any really, she's not picky. Does this sound like you?

If you would like to learn more about Andre', please contact Tawnya Robertson at TRobertson@washoecounty.us

# **Timothy**

11-year-old

#### LOOKING FOR A FOREVER HOME

Do you enjoy learning new things while spending quality one-on-one time with a caring, insightful youth? Timothy just might be the kid you've been waiting for. He is described as a perfectionist who is kind, smart, resilient and incredibly insightful to his own needs.

Timothy thrives with one-on-one attention. His favorite activities to share with those closest to him are; cooking, listening to music and playing musical instruments, playing video games, fishing, learning about sports, boxing, boy scouts and building things.

If you'd like to learn more about this precious and loving child, please reach out to Tawnya Robertson at Trobertson@washoecounty.gov



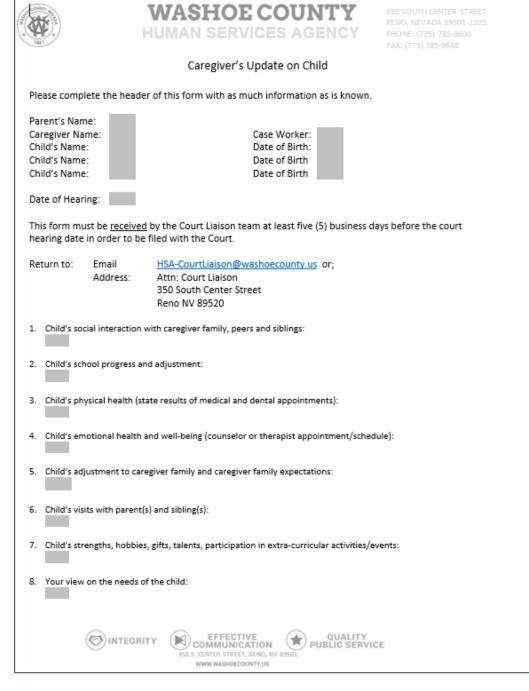


# Court Information

HSA has updated the **Court Notification Policy**. There were changes made to the policy to help provide our resource parents with court information in a timely manner.

In addition to the policy the Caregiver's Update on Child Form was also updated. This form will still be mailed to you but in case you don't receive it or if it gets lost it will also be stored on the QPI website for your convivence. (Business Casual Letterhead Template (qpinevada.org)) This form is to be completed and returned to the Court Liaison Unit by its due date, which is 5 business days prior to the hearing. This form is to help ensure that your voice is heard whether you are in court to provide updates or if you are unable to attend.

The Waiver of Notice by US Mail is on the following page. This waiver is to be filled out and provided if you wish to receive all court notifications and documentation by email instead of the US Postal Services. This form would have to be filled out for each case that is in your home. Therefore, one should be completed for sibling groups. However, if you have two or more foster children in your home that are part of different cases then you would have to complete two or more forms. This will be a form that will consistently have to be filled out as new foster children are placed with you. Due to this we have also placed this form on the QPI website for your convenience (Business Casual Letterhead Template (qpinevada.org)).



9. Your thoughts on how these needs can be addressed:

10. Your thoughts on child's case plan goals:

11. Other child/case specific information you wish the Court to consider:

Caregiver's Signature Caregiver's Printed Name Date



Please ensure you fill out all highlighted sections. You can find the Case Number on prior court orders or from your caseworker.





350 South Center Street RENO, NEVADA 89501-210 PHONE: (775) 786-8600 FAX: (775) 785-8648

Date

NAME [Foster Parent, Relative Placement, Person Planning to Adopt]
ADDRESS
ADDRESS
Email Address

Re: Case No.: JVXX-XXXX

I acknowledge that I have the right to notice and to be heard at hearings in the abovereferenced case. I understand that this right to notice and opportunity to be heard does not include the right to standing as a party to the case. 42 U.S.C. 675(5)(G); 45 C.F.R. 1358.21(o); NRS 4328.580; NRS 4328.590. I understand that if the child who is the subject of this hearing is placed for adoption, the right to visitation of the child is subject to the provisions of NRS 127.171).

 request that all notices to me be provided by	
Name of Foster Parent	
Signature of Foster Parent	







# 2022 Foster Care Reimbursement

# Below you can find the 2022 Foster Care Reimbursement schedule. You can also find a copy on the QPI Nevada Website. qpinevada.org



## WASHOE COUNTY

"Dedicated to Excellence in Public Service"

HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY Child Care Services 350 SOUTH CENTER STREET RENO, NEVADA 89520-0027 PHONE: (775) 337-4470 FAX: (775) 337-4495

December 10, 2021

Re: Publication of Calendar Year 2022 Check Issuance Dates

Dear Foster and/or Adoptive Parent(s):

I'd like to take this opportunity to share with each of you the 2022 schedule for foster care and adoption payments. The schedule was designed around the County's payment processing deadlines and every effort was made to issue payments as early in the month as possible. The current payment dates are as follows:

January 12, 2022 May 11, 2022 September 14, 2022 February 9, 2022 June 08, 2022 October 12, 2022 March 9, 2022 July 13, 2022 November 09, 2022 April 13, 2022 August 10, 2022 December 14, 2022

Checks are generated during the day listed above and mailed out late in the evening. Funds that are direct deposited are generally posted to your account late in the evening or early the following morning.

Washoe County is able to process payments via direct deposit for those who are interested. Please fill out the enclosed form and send to the following address:

# \*If you have already filled out a direct deposit form, you do not need to fill out a new one.

Human Services Agency Attn: Bookkeeping Dept 350 South Center St Reno, NV 89520 FAX (775) 337-4495

Email: HSA-Bookkeeping@washoecounty.gov

If you have any questions related to payments, please call the Department at 775-785-5641 and ask to speak to a member of the Bookkeeping Unit.

Sincerely,

Amy Sandvik

Children's Services Coordinator

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WASHOE COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Frequent Asked

Questions.



# Washoe County School District

FAQ - Educational Quick Facts re. Youth in Foster Care

INCLUDING important WCHSA policy updates!! (Updated 9/30/21)

#### Did you know??

- SCHOOL OF ATTENDANCE: Foster youth have the right to remain at their School of Origin (see definition at end of document) when they come into care and/or change placements - even if it's an adoptive placement - to reduce additional disruptions and maintain their educational stability.
  - WHY?
    - Often the school they attend when they come into care is the "only" stable environment in their world – while parents and placements are in flux.
    - Statistically, foster youth lose an average of 6 months of education for every school move/disruption.
    - WCHSA is bound by State and National legislation, to ensure that every effort is made to maintain our foster youth in their School of Origin.
    - IF it is determined to be in the best interest of the student to change schools, it MUST be approved by WCHSA leadership. This process is coordinated through the student's worker and the WCHSA educational liaison.
  - o Foster Parents, relatives and fictive kid CANNOT change a youth's school without proper approval through WCHSA.
- TRANSPORTATION: Mileage reimbursement is available to whomever is assisting with transportation if there is no bus available. This applies to "anyone" transporting the youth, while the case is open.
  - The district tracks the miles, so you don't have to! The reimbursement is one round trip, based on mapped miles between school and placement address and is disbursed once a month (electronic payments are available!) for the prior month of transport.
- STRONG COMMUNICATION IS KEY
  - The relationship with your student's school is your first line of defense in providing support.
  - Communicate with your worker when things get confusing or challenging.
- INFINITE CAMPUS: Get acquainted with Infinite Campus to follow student progress provide kudos earned and track missing assignments. "It takes a village" and caregivers are an essential part of that village!
- WCSD Board of Trustees meets (almost) every other Tuesday, so if you would like to be "in the know" and have the opportunity to have your voice heard, please tune in! <a href="https://www.washoeschools.net/domain/168">https://www.washoeschools.net/domain/168</a>
- SUPPORT:
  - WCHSA Educational Liaison & WCSD Foster Liaison work together to support all things education! Your case worker can reach out when things get sticky!
  - TUTORING is always available. Be sure to check with your worker.

# Family Engagement Center (FEC) Resource

Accessing new clothing, diapers, shoes, etc. for kiddos coming into care is difficult for most resource families to do at the 'drop of a hat'. I am happy to announce that with 'leftover' monies from our 2020 Pennington Foundation grant, the FEC was able to purchase a large amount of new clothing items and diapers for kiddos. At this time, however, the items purchased are ONLY for NEW kids coming into care. If you receive a new placement, give the FEC a call (775-352-3230) or stop by (905 E. Prater Way in Sparks) to gather a few of the following items for kiddos 0-18:

- Diapers/wipes (including pull-ups, goodnites, etc.)
- **Shoes**
- **Socks**
- Underwear
- Pajamas
- **Shorts and T-shirts.**
- Bathing suits
- **Hygiene items**

Etc. In addition, for any foster home that has African American children, we have a large supply of ethnic hair care products just for them.





# Resources

#### RENO VOLLEYBALL CLUB

The Reno Volleyball Club is willing to offer discounts to children and youth in WCHSA foster care who would like to play volleyball. For more information, visit their website or contact Cindy Lawrence at 775-313-4124 or RenoVBC@aol.com.

## **SOCCER SPROUTS**

The Reno Sportsdome is offering discounts to foster youth who have an interest in soccer! For more information contact Shannon at <a href="mailto:sprouts@renodome.com">sprouts@renodome.com</a>.

## RAISE THE FUTURE

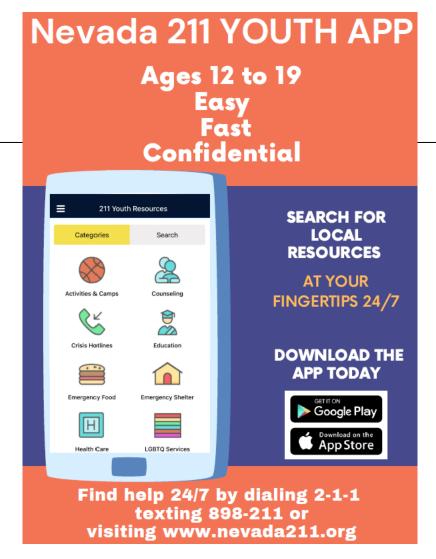
Offers several webinar options on their website for families regarding adoption and foster care topics. View their main <u>Classes and Training</u> page as well as their <u>Upcoming Classes</u>. In addition, they also have a free lending library. They offer a wide variety of books with topics ranging from; exposure, grief & trauma healing, mental illness, sexual abuse, special needs adoption, books for children and more. Visit their website above or call 1-800-451-5246 to learn how easy it is to borrow and return.

# NEVADA EQUINE ASSISTED THERAPY (NEATS)

If you're interested in learning more about NEATS and how their services can help you or a youth in your home visit their website or call Laurie at 750-9823.

### HEAD START

Has openings! The Community Services Agency (Head Start, State Pre-K and Early Head Start) would love to talk to you if you're interested in early education for your 0-3 or 3-5-year-old. Contact Megan Jack at (775) 786-6023 ext. 207 or <a href="mjack@csareno.org">mjack@csareno.org</a>.



## BIGGEST LITTLE BABY

Previously the Nurturing Nest, Biggest Little Baby is a birth and parenting community that offers a variety of free classes from pregnancy and childbirth to yoga. They also offer free weekly circles of support, toddler playgroups and breast-feeding circle to mention just a few.

### A CHILD'S WORLD

Offers a community support group for parents of children with attachment or trauma issues. Receive one hour of training credit per group attended. Groups are the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7-8:30p.m. (excluding December). Please RSVP to Sharon Willams at least 1 day in advance at 322-4650 or Sharonacwoffice@att.net.

### WANDA'S BABY CLOSET

Have you ever heard of Casa de Vida? They're a great resource for our teen moms. What you may not be aware of is Wanda's Baby Closet who works in collaboration with Casa de Vida providing free baby clothes and supplies to our bio and foster parents. For information on how to access this amazing resource or to help your bio parent call (775) 329-3211.

#### KIWANIS CLUB

Has great bikes and accessories available at discounted prices! Contact them at (775) 337-1717 or check out their website above.

## FREE TUTORING!

If your youth needs tutoring, please reach out to <u>Joseph</u> at Sierra Association of Foster Families (SAFF). As a reminder, SAFF can tutor students of all ages who are foster, adopted and/or have reunified.

