I. Resource Family Care Act (Act 73 of 2005) II. Resource Family and Adoption Process Act (Act 68 of 2005) III. The Open Adoption Law (Act 101 of 2010)

The State of Pennsylvania and this agency recognizes and values the important services provided by resource families in caring for children and youth within the foster care system. It is the intent of this agency that resource parents receive fair treatment, consideration and respect and to ensure responsible interaction among all parties involved in protecting the safety and well-being of children within the foster care system.

- **I.** The Resource Family Care Act of 2005 (Act 73 of 2005) establishes and outlines that the following responsibilities and services be made available to resource families. The information provided by this agency to resource families includes:
 - 1) Notification of scheduled meetings by this agency concerning a child residing with the resource family in order that they may actively participate and have input into the services and permanency planning process re: the child. (These meetings can include Permanency Planning meetings, Child Permanency Plan meetings and Court hearings).
 - 2) An open, complete and timely response from the agency when contacted by the resource family regarding the role of the resource family and the care of the child.
 - 3) Information about the child's medical history, general behavior and relationship with his/her parents shall be provided to the resource family as soon as that information is obtained by this agency. Within a reasonable amount of time, the agency shall also provide information to the resource family concerning the educational history, life experiences and previous and prospective placement circumstances of the child. (Information given re: health and education of a child pertains to D.PW. regulation 3130.67, which is found in the agency resource foster parent orientation manual and reviewed during orientation.)
 - 4) The opportunity for resource parents to be heard regarding agency decisions or practices involving a child residing with the resource family. Resource families should direct any inquiries regarding the practices and decisions of the agency involving the foster children in their home to that child's caseworker. If further discussion is warranted, the resource parent may then direct the matter to the caseworker's supervisor. If necessary, the resource parent may then direct their inquiry to the county case manager. The agency shall not discharge, threaten or otherwise discriminate or retaliate against a resource family for an appropriate inquiry regarding the decisions or practices of an agency that affect a child residing with the resource family.
 - 5) Consultation with the resource family in the decision to release the resource family's address to the child's parent and to be informed prior to such information being shared with the child's parent. (This pertains also to Child Protective Services Law #6315 (c) which is found in the agency resource foster parent orientation manual and reviewed during orientation.)
 - 6) Consultation with the resource family in the development of the permanency plan.
 - 7) Information on how to receive services and reach agency personnel on a 24-hour a day, 7-day a week basis. (This information is found in the agency resource foster parent orientation manual and is reviewed during orientation.)

- 8) Information on county policies and procedures that relate to the role of a resource family. (This information is found in the agency resource foster parent orientation manual and is reviewed during orientation.)
- 9) Confidentiality will be maintained by the agency re: allegations of abuse involving a member of the resource family. The provision of confidentiality shall not interfere with the safety of the child.

The services that are available to resource families by the agency include:

- 10) Support services to assist in the care of the child, consistent with the child's approved permanency plan. (Support services occur via the assigned caseworker, family resource coordinator, medical case manager, Generations In Touch program, Buddy/ Mentoring Program, Respite Program and other resources as needed,)
- 11) Any appropriate training deemed necessary to enhance the skills and performance of the resource family. (This training is provided through the agency pre-service and ongoing training programs as well as other training resources.)
- 12) Assistance with the coordination of services that may be deemed necessary due to resulting family loss and separation upon a child's departure from the resource family's home when such relocation is not the result of an immediate threat to the health and safety of the child caused by the resource family.
- II. The Resource Family and Adoption Process Act (Act 68 of 2005) ensures that resource families are treated impartially during all stages of a child's placement, including their adoption. The primary goal of any placement of a child is permanency:

Act 68 requires that a resource family be given an interview with the county or private agency when the following are met:

- 1. The child's goal has been changed to adoption.
- 2. The resource family is interested in becoming an adoptive resource; and
- 3. The child has resided with that resource family for six months or more.

No resource family should be denied consideration because of the agency's inability to access that family as a resource family in the future.

III. The Open Adoption Law (Act 101 of 2010) stipulates that: if a child is freed for adoption, the	
potential adoptive parent (this may or may not be a relative), MAY VOLUNTARILY enter into an open adoption	
agreement with the parents, step-parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts and/or uncle of the child to maintain	
contact/visitation after the child is adopted. This agreement is subject to Court approval.	

All resource families shall be given a copy of the responsibilities and information outlined in Act 73/ Act 68 and Act 101 at the time of their initial approval and again at each annual re-certification. You will be asked to review, sign and date this form, submitting the original to the agency and retaining a copy for your records.

With my signature I hereby acknowledge that I have read the above information outlined under the Resource Family Care Act (Act 73 of 2005), Resource Family and Adoption Process Act (Act 68 of 2005) and Open Adoption Law (Act 101) and have been given a copy of such.

Resource parent:	Date:
Resource parent:	Date:
Family Resource Coordinator:	Date: