

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

September 14, 2016

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: CHILDREN'S DIVISION AND CONTRACTED STAFF
FROM: TIM DECKER, DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard Online Training

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce the specific training required for resource parents as well as the designated liaison at residential treatment agencies regarding the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard.

[Missouri House Bill 1877](#) put into effect Missouri's commitment (reflected in sections 210.660 and 210.665, RSMo) to allowing youth in the foster care system to be allowed to participate in normal activities without undue interference from state agencies. This state law puts Missouri in line with Federal Law enacted under [PL113-183](#).

A designated care giver is empowered to make reasonable and prudent decisions on activities in which a foster youth can participate. Such activities include but are not limited to:

- After school clubs
- Spending the night with friends
- Riding on ATVs
- Attending peer social events
- Attending field trips

As stated in memo CD16-65, policy and training requirements have been updated for Resource Providers. A training specific to the standard is located on the internet and is required for all current resource providers and residential treatment agency staff responsible for making reasonable and prudent parenting decisions. The training will count as a 2 hour in-service training credit for resource parents and is located at:

<http://dss.mo.gov/cd/fostercare/pdf/reasonable-prudent-parenting.pdf>

Residential treatment agencies may count this training in the required annual training.

NECESSARY ACTION

1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division staff.
2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below.
3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:

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CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS

[Section 4, Chapter 7.2 Family Support Team \(FST\) Meetings](#)
[Section 4, Chapter 9.2 Administrative Review Process/Permanency Planning Review \(PPR\)](#)

FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

N/A

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES

N/A

RELATED STATUTE

HB 1877