



Defining Normal

Working Together to Improve Life
for Young People in Foster Care



HI H.O.P.E.S.

Hawai'i Helping Our People Envision Success



"The HI H.O.P.E.S. youth leadership boards provide the youth voice for HYOI and the DHS-Child Welfare Services by **educating** others on the needs of transitioning foster youth, **collaborating** with community partners and **advocating** for improved outcomes."

The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (Public Law 113-183)

Promoting NORMALCY for Children and Youth in Foster Care

- Ensure that children in foster care engage in age or developmentally appropriate activities.
- Institute the 'reasonable and prudent parent standard' for youth participation in activities.
- Develop standards and training on the reasonable and prudent parenting standard for foster parents and caregivers.
- Institute liability protections when the reasonable and prudent parenting standard is applied by foster parents.
- Mandate judicial review of normalcy for youth who have a permanency goal of APPLA.
- Require participation of youth age 14 and older in case planning and identification of advisors/advocates.
- Mandate provision of a list of rights to youth age 14 and older.
- Mandate inclusion of youth age 14 and older in transition planning.

What is NORMALCY?

Barriers to Normalcy

- Fears that youth will get HURT and that agencies and individuals will be held LIABLE.
- Foster youth and foster parents have to obtain PERMISSION for many activities.
- A foster parent's AUTHORITY is often unclear.

Costs of Not Providing Normalcy

- Foster youth feel SOCIALLY EXCLUDED
- Hinders WELL-BEING and PERMANENCY
- SKILLS necessary for adulthood not developed
- Affects RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING skills
- Prevents DECISION-MAKING and SELF-LEADERSHIP
- Increased chance of NEGATIVE LIFE OUTCOMES, HIGHER SOCIAL COST

What is PRUDENT PARENTING?

IMPLEMENTING THE LAW

- 1) States should provide a right for children in foster care to engage in age-or developmentally-appropriate activities, and an affirmative obligation on the child welfare agency to provide these opportunities.
- 2) States should enforce normalcy provisions by requiring a) inclusion of age-appropriate activities in each child's case plan, b) judicial oversight, and c) youth-friendly grievance procedures.
- 3) States should supply youth with a document describing their rights under federal and state law and youth-friendly grievance procedures.
- 4) States should codify the reasonable and prudent parent standard and clarify the scope of decision-making authority and the considerations for decision making.
- 5) States should afford protections from liability to foster parents and caregivers who follow the reasonable and prudent parent standard.

