CHILD WELFARE, RESOURCE FAMILY, & PLACEMENT STABILITY PROTOCOL

Organizational Readiness Assessment: Foster Family Agencies (FFAs)

Institutional Self-Audit for Supporting Children & Youth Impacted by Trafficking in Family-Based Care

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> **Foster Family Agency Scope:** Youth in foster care face elevated vulnerability to commercial sexual exploitation and labor trafficking due to placement instability, relational trauma, and unmet belonging needs **(TVPA, 2000; ACF, 2019)**. FFAs must prepare, match, and wrap around resource families with specialized crisis stabilization, trauma-informed technology/safety coaching, and placement preservation supports so youth are not cycled through disruptive placement failures.

Foster Family Agency (FFA) Name & Service Region: _____	**Assessment Date / Review Cycle:** _____
FFA Executive / Social Work / Homefinding Lead: _____	**Active Resource Homes & Specialized Program Scope:** _____

Part 1: Foster Family Agency Self-Audit Standards

1. **Engage FFA Social Workers, Resource Parents, & Foster Youth Alumni:** Include licensing/homefinding staff, FFA social workers, on-call crisis staff, experienced resource parents, and compensated former foster youth consultants.
2. **Replace Blanket Restrictions with Relational Safety Planning:** Audit home rules around phones, social media, and curfews to ensure resource parents build trust rather than triggering clandestine communication or running away.
3. **Prioritize Placement Preservation Over Reactive Disruption:** Measure placement stability and respite utilization for youth impacted by trafficking.

Part 2: Foster Family Agency Readiness Indicators

Mark **Met** (consistent agency-wide practice), **Dev** (developing / inconsistent across homes), **Gap** (priority institutional gap), or **N/A**.

FFA Readiness Standard & Verification Focus	Met	Dev	Gap	N/A
Domain 1: Resource Parent Preparation, Matching, & Home Safety				
1.1 Pre-Service & Specialized Resource Parent Training: Resource parents complete dedicated training on youth sex and labor trafficking indicators, online grooming, trauma bonding, and culturally affirming caregiving prior to placement matching. Prepares caregivers to understand complex trauma behaviors without personalizing anger or withdrawal.	☐	☐	☐	☐

FFA Readiness Standard & Verification Focus	Met	Dev	Gap	N/A
1.2 Intentional Placement Matching & Location Safety: Intake matching evaluates geographic distance from active trafficker networks, household composition, linguistic/cultural fit, and caregiver capacity before placing a youth. Reduces immediate re-contact risk and prevents mismatched placements that end in rapid disruption.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Domain 2: 24/7 Stabilization, Absence Response, & Placement Preservation				
2.1 24/7 Mobile Crisis & Trauma-Informed Respite Support: Resource parents have immediate 24/7 access to FFA crisis social workers and trained trauma-informed respite homes to prevent emergency placement disruption notices. Gives caregivers real-time stabilization coaching during acute behavioral or safety crises.	☐	☐	☐	☐
2.2 Non-Punitive Missing-from-Care Protocol: When a youth goes missing from a foster home, FFA staff and resource parents coordinate immediate search/reporting, maintain warm contact, and welcome the youth back without punitive bed forfeiture. Ensures the youth knows the foster home remains a safe, welcoming anchor upon return.	☐	☐	☐	☐
Domain 3: Youth Voice, Normalcy, & Interagency Coordination				
3.1 Healthy Normalcy & Collaborative Digital Safety: Staff and caregivers apply the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard to support safe extracurriculars, healthy peer belonging, and collaborative online safety planning rather than total isolation. Builds protective prosocial connections that counter trafficker promises of belonging and autonomy.	☐	☐	☐	☐
3.2 Child Welfare, Educational, & Legal Advocacy Alignment: FFA social workers coordinate seamlessly with county child welfare, school McKinney-Vento/foster liaisons, independent interpreters, and specialized trafficking advocates. Prevents fragmented case management and ensures educational and legal protections are enforced.	☐	☐	☐	☐

Part 3: Foster Family Agency Priority Action Matrix

FFA Readiness Domain	Readiness Tier (1–4)	Key Homefinding / Support Gap	Lead Owner & Target Date
1. Resource Parent Training & Placement Matching			
2. 24/7 Crisis Support & Missing-from-Care Response			
3. Youth Normalcy & Interagency Coordination			

Foster Family Agency Findings & 90-Day Action Plan

Practice Standards & References

1. Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office on Trafficking in Persons. (2019). *Public Health Response to Human Trafficking: Organizational Readiness & Screening Guidance*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Public Domain).
2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). (2014). *SAMHSA's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach* (HHS Publication No. SMA 14-4884). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Public Domain).
3. Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), Pub. L. No. 106-386, 114 Stat. 1464 (2000) (codified as amended at 22 U.S.C. § 7102).

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