

STAY CURIOUS

Issue 005

November 2025

THIS ISSUE:

- Reflect on the National Adoption Days
- Feature a Child Welfare Professional.
- Examine CFOP.
- Reminder! ACE screenings
- Nominations!

LET'S TALK ABOUT ADOPTION

“Don’t tell us we’re lucky, tell us it’s okay that we’re sad, tell us that missing people we don’t know is okay and that loving two moms is safe to say out loud. Tell us that home can be a place we start and a place we end up.”

—Rebecca Dolang

In November we celebrate National Adoption Day! Adoption means the end of being a part of the system of care, normalcy, and permanency for children who deserve all of the above. We celebrate the end of a difficult time in their lives and create a new family where they can heal, grieve, and grow. BUT, that is when the work really begins for the children and their families.



Rapheal Smith is our CWP Staff Member Highlight for Fall 2025. Rapheal distinguished himself by providing deeply caring support for a child undergoing surgery. He demonstrated exceptional empathy

CWP STAFF MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



and compassion for a child in care who was preparing for a significant surgery. Rapheal arranged to stay at the Ronald McDonald house to be with the child during the entire surgery in Orlando. He offered to give the mother his spot at the house so she could attend. He prepared the child for surgery, made sure it happened after placement moves, bought the child pajamas so they child would be comfortable. “I could go on and on” Leadership stated about Rapheal. Way to go and thank you, Rapheal, for taking such good care of this child and family during an especially challenging time.

TRAINING NEWSLETTER

FALL EDITION

What is Foster Youth Voice Month??

Did you know, Governor Ron DeSantis proclaimed the month of October as “Foster Youth Voice Month (FYVM)” & November 4th as “Foster Youth Voice Day” in the state of Florida in 2021? Some may ask... what is FYVM? It’s quite simple. It’s when our youth & foster care alumni’s, such as myself, use their voice in the system of care to advocate for change. Not only for themselves, but for all youth & young adults involved in the foster care system. Since allowing our youth & young adults to use their voices, some great changes have come about in the system. Especially for our young adults participating in Independent Living. Who is better at advocating for change other than the youth & young adults themselves who are currently in the system &/or has gone through the system of care? You’re right... They are the experts on how the system has impacted them.

Want to learn more about FYVM or how you can be of service to our youth & young adults involved in the system of care? Please stop by & speak to your local Independent Living program to get involved. Our youth & young adults are the future & we must invest in them.

Signed a Foster Care Alumni & now Certified Child Welfare Trainer- Ashley Bowers





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"WHILE ADOPTION DOES NOT UNDO THE PAST, ADOPTING A CHILD, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY AN OLDER CHILD, GIVES AN ADOPTIVE FAMILY THE PRIVILEGE OF WRITING THE PARTS OF THE CHILD'S STORY THAT HAVE NOT YET BEEN WRITTEN." — CAITLIN SNYDER



ADOPTION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

You can't have adoption without loss. Loss is experienced by the biological parents, the adoptive parents, and the children. Throughout the life of an adoptive family grief and loss come into play in many ways. It is important to remember while we celebrate the wonderful moment of adoption finalization (and it really is wonderful), that these children have also lost so very much.

What are some ways we can help mitigate the loss of relationships, the loss of community, the loss of health information, childhood pictures, memories of pets and relatives?

Send us your thoughts, suggestions, or things you do to help reduce the impact of loss our kids experience to training@nwfhealth.org and get free .5 training credit!

CFOP CORNER

CFOP 170- 11 Chapter 6-5

Normalcy and Children in Care on Social Media/Computer Usage and Cell Phones

- a. Children are permitted to participate in social media, computer usage, and have a cell phone as long as permission has been given by the caregiver.
- b. Caregivers shall apply the reasonable and prudent parent standard to decision-making regarding social media usage. Caregivers should be sensitive to the risks of the various forms of social media.
- c. Children have the right to self-disclose information about themselves on social media. Caregivers should educate children regarding the potential impact and ramifications of disclosures of a private and personal nature that may put themselves, family members, friends, and acquaintances at risk for bullying, cyberstalking, and emotional or physical harm.
- d. Caregivers are permitted to post pictures on social media including children placed in their care. Caregivers may not use the child's last name or references that may identify the child as residing in out-of-home care.



Reminder

ACE Screening Tool

Don't forget to complete the ACE screening tool within 21 days of removal!

<https://adversechildhoodexperiences.myflfamilies.com/>





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NWF Health Network



NOMINATE A CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONAL!

We want to highlight YOU in the next newsletter! Tell us about yourself or your co-workers who are demonstrating best case practice with the families and children we serve. Tell us about engagement! Tell us about planning! Tell us about transitions! We want to hear about it!

Have a training need?
[Request a training](#)



Nominate someone for the
Staff Member Highlight



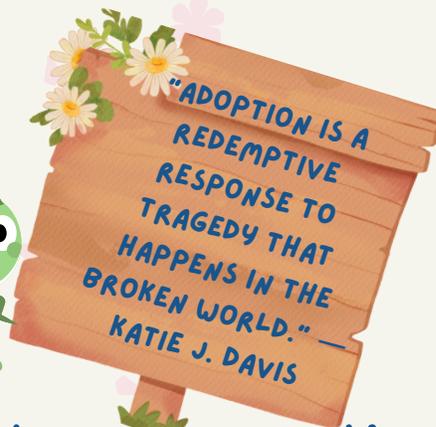
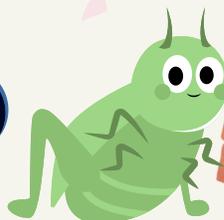
Scan the QR code to tell us
all about it!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO
REGISTER!



IN-SERVICE
REGISTRATION



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For any questions, comments or suggestions please contact training@nwfhealth.org



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Taylor N. Hatch
Secretary



DATE: October 16, 2025 Florida Abuse Hotline

Updates to CFOP 170-4: Child Maltreatment Matrix; and 170-11, Chapter 6: Normalcy

Neglect of a child:

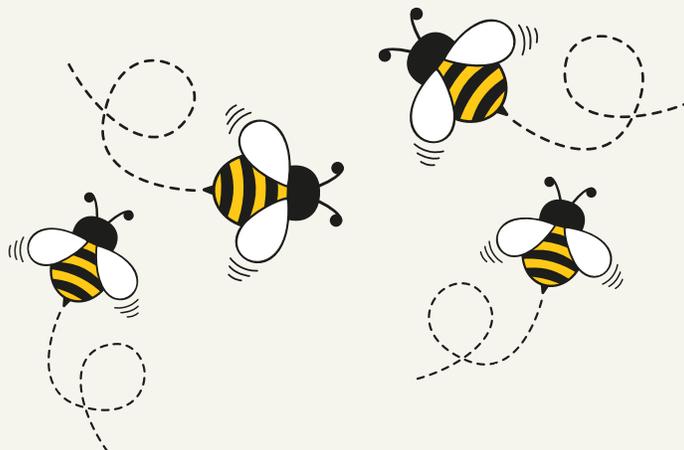
Amends s. 827.03(1)(e), F.S., revising the definition of "neglect of a child" in criminal statutes by:

1. Adding a "willful" standard, requiring that a caregiver's failure to provide necessary care be willful rather than merely negligent.
2. Excluding from the definition of neglect situations where caregivers allow children to engage in independent activities unless such permission constitutes "willful and wanton conduct that endangers the health or safety of the child".

INFORMATION TO FLORIDA ABUSE HOTLINE STAFF AND CHILD WELFARE

PROFESSIONALS:

- Hotline staff should gather detailed information from reporters to determine whether the statutory requirements described above are met.
- Child welfare professionals should fully assess a child's ability to care for their own needs, exposure to obvious danger, and capacity to exercise reasonable judgment in a crisis.
- Caregivers should not be restricted from allowing children of sufficient maturity and physical condition to engage in independent activities unless doing so constitutes reckless or willful endangerment

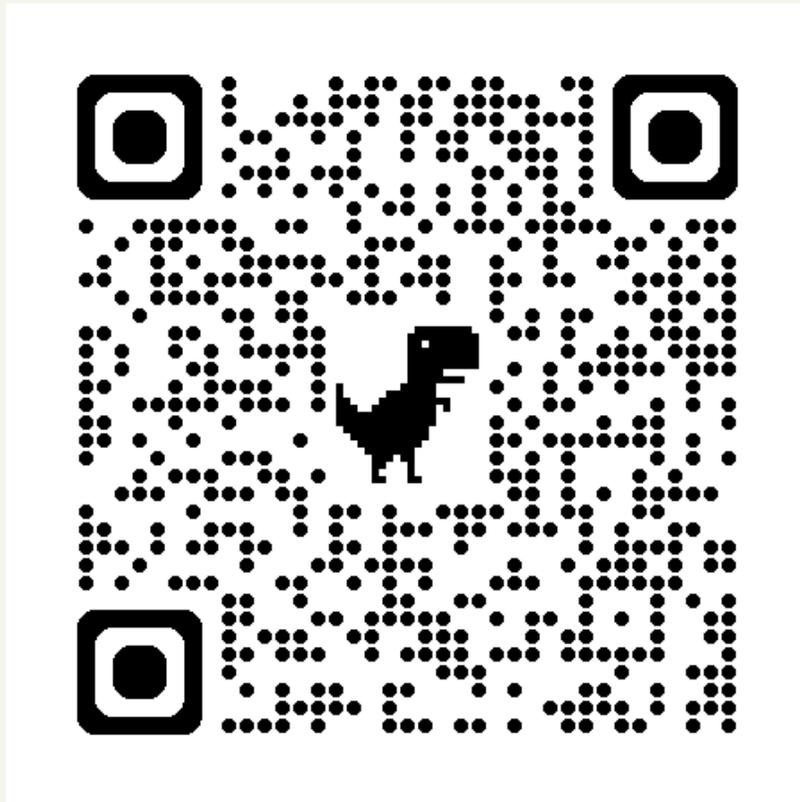


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Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

The Council on Accreditation (COA) is conducting an accreditation review of NWFHN and seeks your assistance. COA is seeking information from our organization's staff, Board, individuals served, and community partners, to help them gain an understanding of our organization and assess our organization's implementation of COA's standards.

To access the feedback form, follow the link below:



<https://coa.formassembly.com/232264>