**Lummi Child Welfare**

**2665 Kwina Road, Bellingham WA**

**Phone: (360)384-2324 Fax: (360)384-2341**

**Foster Care Licensing Agreement**

As a caregiver to child/children in legal custody of Lummi Child Welfare (LCW), caregivers must agree to abide by the following expectations. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in removal of the child(ren) placed in your home:

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| **Discipline** |
| I will use discipline that is appropriate to the child’s age and level of development and will establish limits and use positive methods of guidance that promote self-control, self-responsibility, self-direction, self-esteem and cooperation. My positive methods will include: directing children to another activity, giving choices when appropriate, time out as a method of guidance, allowing the child time to change their behavior, planning in order to prevent problems; and using positive reinforcement and encouraging children to express their feelings and ideas. I won’t use physical punishment or verbally abusive, neglectful, humiliating or frightening punishment which includes but is not limited to: spanking, cursing, threats, humiliation, or intimidation, and/or locked time-out rooms or methods that interfere with a child’s basic needs, including withholding of food. I understand that only authorized care providers and myself are responsible for discipline. That responsibility cannot be given to a child. I will allow contact with the child’s service providers and others including contact with the child’s social worker, legal representatives, legal parents or other family members.  |
| **Confidentiality** |
| I understand that information about a child or the child’s family is confidential and must only be shared with people directly involved in the case plan for the child. I agree to consult with my licensor or the child’s social worker for guidance about sharing information with others involved in the child’s case plan.  |
| **Smoking**  |
| I understand that I will prohibit smoking of any kind in the living space of any home or facility caring for children, in motor vehicles while transporting children, or in the presence of the children. I understand that I may permit adults to smoke outdoors away from children. I understand that traditional tobacco use inside the home may be permitted if cleared with the child’s social worker in advance to determine that it does not pose risk to child’s health.  |
| **Reporting Responsibilities** |
| I understand I must report to the LCW Licensor if: there is an address or telephone number change, structure of the home changes, or there are plans to make changes to the structure, changes regarding people in the home or property, or changes in the home which may require the department to complete anew assessment of the home or which may result in a change in licensing. I understand I am considered a mandated reporter, and must report any concerns of child abuse or neglect to Child Protective Services (CPS Intake hotline 1(866)829-2153). I understand that I must report the following incidents immediately to LCW staff or no later than 30 minutes after the incident if: there’s any serious injury or illness that requires medical treatment by a medical professional or hospitalization of a child in care, suspicion or disclosure of physical or sexual abuse, suicidal or homicidal thoughts, gestures, or attempts that do not require professional medical treatment, any treatment by a medical professional for emergency medical or emergency psychiatric care, drug or alcohol use by a foster child, any inappropriate sexual behavior by or toward and foster child or any other circumstance where the health and safety of the foster child has been impacted. I have read and understand my requirements for reporting to Lummi Child Welfare. I understand that I must report incidents immediately and in no instance later than 24 hours.  |
| **Firearms and Supervision** |
| I understand that I must: * Notify my licensor if I or someone else in my home has a gun or weapon on the property. This includes but is not limited to BB guns, pellet guns, air rifles, stun guns, antique guns, handguns, rifles, shotguns and archery equipment.
* Guns and ammunition must not be accessible to children, and must be kept in locked containers with guns and ammunition locked separately.
* Bows and arrows and other weapons must be stored in locked containers out of reach of children.
* If I store guns in a container that may be easily breakable, I must secure them with a locked cable or chain placed through the trigger guards.
* I must keep keys to the locked storage area of weapons secure from children.
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| **Water Safety and Supervision** |
| I will ensure that children under my care or placed in my home or facility are safe around bodies of water. I will keep all swimming pools and other bodies of water fenced with a locking gate or other approved safety device, lock hot tubs when not in use, make all potential water hazards, including wading pools, inaccessible to children when not in use. I will ensure that all swimming pools and other bodies of water are in compliance with Lummi Child Welfare’s regulations. I will work with my licensor to establish a plan for the bodies of water based on the developmental level and behaviors of the children in my home.  |
| **Medication Storage** |
| I will ensure that prescriptions and over the counter medications will be kept in a locked container, internal and external medications will be stored separately and human medication and animal medication will be kept separate and in locked containers.  |
| **Social Media/Internet/Photos** |
| I understand that I am responsible for ensuring that children in my care do not have age-inappropriate access to the internet and social media. I will monitor child’s internet/social media use to ensure no inappropriate activity is occurring (such as accessing pornography or inappropriate violent content, contact with persons in violation of court order, being targeted by pedophiles, etc.). I understand that I am not to post photos/videos of a child in my care on social media/internet unless it has been approved by LCW. I will not post comments about a child’s dependency case, family, location or child’s name on the internet/social media.  |
| **Religion/Spirituality** |
| I understand that I am expected to respect the child and the child’s family’s spiritual/religious perspectives/beliefs, and not impose my beliefs as the caregiver on the child. I will consult with LCW prior to bringing the child in my care to worship services/activities by me to determine if there is parental or other objection. I will not disparage the beliefs of the child in my care or their family.  |
| **Haircuts** |
| I understand that there is significant amount of cultural consideration that must be made in consenting to haircuts, and this may vary from family to family. I understand that unless the child is old enough to go to court o express their desire to have their hair cut, parental consent must be obtained (unless the court determines that it will authorize this).  |
| **Annual Training** |
| I understand that an individualized training plan of a minimum of six hours annually will be developed with an emphasis on meeting the needs of the child(ren) in foster care. I know the training plan may include additional time commitment and can be made at anytime to continue to meet the needs of the specific foster children in my home or to address non-compliant findings. I understand I must complete a minimum of six hours of annual training to be in compliance with my licensing requirements.  |

By signing this form, I/We agree to follow the expectations that we as a Licensed Home are held by:

Applicant A Signature Date

Applicant B Signature Date