

Hephzibah Children's Association

Complaint/Grievance Policy and Procedure

Hephzibah Children's Association will provide a written Complaint/Grievance Policy and Procedure, in accordance with Rule 401.595 Procedures, to all prospective parties including but not limited to, birth parents and adoptive parents prior to the initiation of service provision.

The Complaint/Grievance Policy and Procedure also applies to foster parents for alleged violations of the Foster Parent Law or other complaints against the agency. This policy is to be used by foster parents only for alleged violations of the Foster Parent Law or other complaints that are not covered by an already existing grievance or appeal process. It cannot be used to address issues that are covered by the service appeal process, the appeal process for indicated cases of child abuse and/or neglect, the process for appealing licensing investigation findings or license revocations, etc.

1. Hephzibah will initiate an investigation of any written complaint within two day of receipt of the written complaint. Any party with special needs that request assistance to put their complaint into writing will be provided with assistance by an agency staff person. The Complaint/Grievance Policy and Procedure will also be provided in Spanish to any Spanish speaking clients;
2. The Complaint/Grievance Policy and Procedure includes foster/adoptive parents who have a written complaint regarding a violation of the Foster Parent Law;
3. Hephzibah will maintain written documentation of all complaints received;
4. Hephzibah will finalized the complaint investigation within 10 business days after complaints are received. The resolution of any and all complaints will be sent, in writing, to the complaining party and the licensing representative for Hephzibah. If circumstances exist which require additional time for resolution, an interim report will be provided to the complaining party and to DCFS at the 10-day point, with a final report submitted to all parties at the conclusion of the investigation.
5. All parties involved with Hephzibah have the right to be treated with dignity and respect;
6. Hephzibah will not retaliate against any complainants;
7. The Director of Family-Based Services at Hephzibah will accept and coordinate complaint investigations;
8. The resolutions of all complaints will be reported to the agency's Executive Director and the Quality Assurance Committee of the Board of Directors at its next meeting. Any resolutions reported to this committee of the Board of Directors will include copies of the written complaint and the agency's written response. The reports of complaint resolutions that are made to the Board of Directors will be reflected in the meeting minutes.

Revised: November 2007