

Appendix 4

Barton Child Law & Policy Clinic ASFA Survey

Survey of Foster Parents Regarding Their Right to Have Notice and To Be Heard

The survey of foster parents was developed by the Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic and supported by the Child Placement Project. The survey was designed to explore how Georgia foster parents perceive their right to have notice of hearings and an opportunity to be heard and implementation of that right

The survey was first passed out at a foster parent association meeting in February of 2002 and then at the Georgia Foster Parent Conference in April of 2002, with a total of 47 responses. Wanting a larger sample, 200 more foster parents were surveyed at random using the mailing addresses provided by the Department of Human Resources, resulting in another 117 responses. Thus, at the close of the survey on August 15, 2002 we had received a total of 153 completed surveys.

The Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic and the Child Placement Project would like to thank the foster/adoptive parents and relative caregivers who took the time to be a part of this study, recognizing the importance of their input. The results of the survey are posted below for your review.

[Survey](#) - [Survey Results](#) - [Comments](#)

**1. Are you familiar with the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997?
(Check only one answer)**

no	40.5%	(62)
somewhat	38.6%	(59)
yes	20.9%	(32)
TOTAL	100.0%	153

**2. For what hearings pertaining to the children in your care do you receive notice?
(Check all that apply)**

periodic reviews by panel	62.1%	(95)
periodic reviews by judge	36.6%	(56)
permanency	22.2%	(34)
I do not receive notice for any hearing	18.3%	(28)
case plans/visits	0.7%	(1)
Case worker	0.7%	(1)
citizen panel review	0.7%	(1)
I get a notice or a caseworker calls about most hearings and panel reviews.	0.7%	(1)
non reunification	0.7%	(1)
Not Applicable at this time	0.7%	(1)
only when we ask -- sometimes we ask 3-4 times times before we hear	0.7%	(1)
people that knew the children	0.7%	(1)
termination	0.7%	(1)
termination of parental rights--the court never called me inside to be heard, and panel review for placement	0.7%	(1)
via Caseworker but not consistently	0.7%	(1)
we are new parents	0.7%	(1)
TOTAL		153

3. How often is notice being provided for the hearings you marked above? (Check only one answer)

always	36.6%	(56)
most of the time	28.8%	(44)
rarely or never	19.0%	(29)
some of the time	15.7%	(24)
TOTAL	100.0%	153

4. When you are given notice of hearings, from whom do you usually receive that notice? (Check only one answer)

Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS)	52.3%	(80)
Court	24.2%	(37)
I do not receive notice	12.4%	(19)
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)	3.9%	(6)
Court and DFCS	1.3%	(2)
private agency case worker	0.7%	(1)
Attorney	0.7%	(1)
both DFCS and CASA/GAL	0.7%	(1)
DFCS LAWYER	0.7%	(1)
I'm not sure.	0.7%	(1)
Not applicable at this time	0.7%	(1)
panel review board	0.7%	(1)
parents a few times	0.7%	(1)
social worker	0.7%	(1)
TOTAL	100.0%	153

5. When you receive notice of hearings, how is it given? (Check all that apply)

regular mail	60.8%	(93)
phone call	34.0%	(52)
I do not receive notice	12.4%	(19)
in person	10.5%	(16)
certified mail	5.2%	(8)
I call DFACS	0.7%	(1)
no consistent route of delivery	0.7%	(1)
Not applicable at this time.	0.7%	(1)
sometimes by mail	0.7%	(1)
TOTAL		153

6. When you receive notice of hearings, how much notice do you get? (Check only one answer)

7 - 14 days	45.1%	(69)
less than 7 days	15.0%	(23)
I do not receive notice	14.4%	(22)
15 - 21 days	14.4%	(22)
less than 2 days	6.5%	(10)
more than 21 days	4.6%	(7)
TOTAL	100.0%	153

7. Before hearings, are you given information about your right to have an opportunity to be heard? (Check only one answer)

no	58.2%	(89)
yes	30.7%	(47)
sometimes	11.1%	(17)
TOTAL	100.0%	153

8. ASFA, the federal law, requires that foster parents have 'an opportunity to be heard.' What would you like that phrase to mean? 'The opportunity to'? (Check only one answer)

Speak in court	52.9%	(81)
have my concerns verbalized to the court by DFCS case manager	15.0%	(23)
submit something in writing to the judge	12.4%	(19)
have my concerns verbalized to the court by CASA/GAL	5.9%	(9)
Both speak in court and submit something in writing to the judge	3.3%	(5)
speak in court or submit something in writing	1.3%	(2)
all of the above except for speak in court	0.7%	(1)
All/ because we have had our children for 4-5 years and want to adopt and nothing has been done for use.	0.7%	(1)
any of the above	0.7%	(1)
both speak in court and submit something in writing to the judge	0.7%	(1)
Both speak in court and submit something in writing to the judge and notice be taken when we do speak	0.7%	(1)
either speak in court or through CASA/GAL	0.7%	(1)
My choice of any of the above	0.7%	(1)
none marked	0.7%	(1)

panel review	0.7%	(1)
rarely	0.7%	(1)
speak in court & submit in writing	0.7%	(1)
speak in court and have my concerns verbalized to the court by CASA/GAL	0.7%	(1)
This question wasn't answered	0.7%	(1)
to speak in court, or through DFCS or CASA/GAL	0.7%	(1)
TOTAL	100.0%	153

9. For what proceedings are you given the opportunity to be heard? (Check all that apply)

periodic reviews by panel	54.2%	(83)
none	28.8%	(44)
periodic reviews by judge	15.7%	(24)
permanency	13.7%	(21)
No response given	1.3%	(2)
adoption hearing	0.7%	(1)
Case Manager Only	0.7%	(1)
case plan meetings	0.7%	(1)
Case Plans	0.7%	(1)
case plans	0.7%	(1)
case worker	0.7%	(1)
N/A	0.7%	(1)
once at a review by judge	0.7%	(1)
termination	0.7%	(1)
Through casework	0.7%	(1)
TOTAL		153

10. How are you given the opportunity to be heard? (Check all that apply)

in person (at panel reviews)	55.6%	(85)
through DFCS case manager	36.6%	(56)
I am not given the opportunity to be heard	23.5%	(36)
in person (testify in court)	14.4%	(22)
through CASA/GAL	10.5%	(16)
in person (speaking to the judge but not as a formal witness)	6.5%	(10)
in writing	5.2%	(8)
did not respond	0.7%	(1)
directly in Panel Reviews, I got in trouble for writing a letter to the judge.	0.7%	(1)
in person at case planning	0.7%	(1)

N/A	0.7%	(1)
none selected	0.7%	(1)
once at a panel review by judge	0.7%	(1)
TOTAL		153

11. Do you feel you have an adequate opportunity to participate in the hearing process? (Check only one answer)

no	69.3%	(106)
yes	30.7%	(47)
TOTAL	100.0%	153

12. Is there a relationship between your ability to participate and your desire to continue foster parenting? (Check only one answer)

yes	58.8%	(90)
no	41.2%	(63)
TOTAL	100.0%	153

13. If you answered yes to the previous question, please describe the relationship.

1. Currently we have only been keeping foster children for immediate and short-term placement. Our first child in 97 stayed with us nearly 4 months, we never even knew when court dates were. Fall of 2000 we had a teenager for 2 months, and only knew of the court hearings hours before they were to happen. When we have a child for long term, and are not involved in the total permanency planning, what good are we as partners in the system?
2. Mostly to be heard: things that we saw and heard from the child; our experience from being a parent; insight that we have from being around the child. Maybe the fact is that we might know what we are talking about.
3. The system seems to be moving toward minimizing the foster parents except as dumping grounds. It seems to place no value or importance on our experience.
4. It is so frustrating to be told you are an outside party, and therefore unable to be heard. I cannot send a child into a situation that I feel is inappropriate after the judge has refused to communicate at all with me, the primary caregiver.
5. more understanding—believing in each other.
6. We do not always understand the outcome, why some children go home when the parents have not changed.
7. to keep on fostering
8. I feel that I know the child better than anyone knows and have his best

interest.

9. I can be a voice for the children that I have in my home.
10. My caseworker talks to me all the time; she explains everything in detail.
11. This feeling by no means has anything to do with ability, but on the other hand, my desire has truly been affected by the people I have to work with in my DFCS system - bottom line!
12. As the foster parent, I feel I know the child better than anyone else and it is frustrating not to be heard in court.
13. It is difficult to continue to foster when you see harm coming to the children, which we could possibly intervene in.
14. I know the child better than the C. W. and sometimes better than the parent. The judge should respect my opinion. If not, why ask me to be in court? The Judge has never failed to ask my opinion.
15. Foster parents know the foster children well, in most cases. This knowledge is pertinent in helping the child to move ahead, whether toward parental rights termination, permanency, reunification, etc. Not including the foster parents negates all the effort the foster parents have put into raising the child.
16. If I understood the question correctly, I feel if I cannot participate in having input in the best interest of the child I have cared for in my home then I may as well just be a low paid babysitter and not a foster PARENT. Parents have input in the outcome of their children regardless to what the situation may be.
17. We are at the point that some of the children are suffering from Foster parents not being heard. It may take some time, but we are willing to make some noise to be heard, whatever is necessary for the sake of the children we care for.
18. I feel, as a Foster Parent, I have valuable input, not just when reviews take place. This is the second time I feel I have been ignored as a foster parent when it came to hearings and strongly considered closing my foster home. The treatment I have received from DFCS in reference to being honest about children in my home has left a “terrible taste in my mouth.”
19. Absolutely! (Good foster parents) are these kids’ primary advocates—how typical that we are often cut completely out of the process to decide their fate...
20. Foster parents are sometimes the most reliable source of information regarding a child in state custody. A Foster Parent is the one involved every day. Caseworkers do an excellent job; however, they have many, many children to keep up with.
21. The more consideration given for my opinion makes me feel as if I am effective in being a foster parent and foster parents are the ones who know the most about the children.
22. I believe, in being a foster parent, you should participate in every thing

about the case that you are allowed to.

23. Find it very frustrating when the courts feel blood is thicker than water in dealing with these children - some of the children are so messed up and yet are returned to their family when we as foster parents have taken these kids to get their shots, go to school, see therapists, etc., etc. trying to undo the damage that their families have done.
24. My love for children, previous experiences with children, and would love to continue to be a foster parent.
25. I would like to participate and continue as a foster parent. Because one will be helping other people in need, i.e. a home to live in, good values, morals and a changed in environment. Helping home and caring for people in a terrible need.
26. Social services supervisor in our county works very hard to go against any request or concerns we have. It is as though the director's desire is to make foster parents life miserable and snuff our voices all together. The county director in another ounty is even worse. Power is more important to the director than the child's needs.
27. Knowing that we are heard makes a parent feel like they have a direction or effect on a child's future. Foster parents need to know that they are having an impact on the system or process.
28. Yes, I would like to participate in the placement of the child. Yes, I want the children to go home with the parents if they are able to take care of them. I've seen cases where it didn't work out.
29. Foster parents are an integral part of the process for foster/adopt children. Parents (foster) should be allowed to share their views and concerns for the children and the process.
30. I always attend Panel & Court hearings and I'm always asked my opinion and I'm free to express my concerns, with no repercussions.
31. Real good
32. We talk on phone about the children.
33. I think Foster parents need to be heard that because of them living with these children, we see things that parents don't see and we can give them more love, think.
34. Due to the frequent turnover in caseworkers, many times the foster parents know more about the case than the workers. A majority of the time, the best interest of the child is not looked at or dragged out due to lack of knowledge on the caseworkers part.
35. We are fostering to adopt two little girls (2yrs & 1yr). The second girl, we were almost afraid to take into our care because we felt so helpless and unaware of what was going on with our first child. We have had our first child since she was 5 weeks old and we still really do not know how the whole process works (termination, placement, adoption, etc.)
36. I feel that as a foster parent, at times I know the child better than anyone else involved. I often feel left out of very important decisions being made for these children. I am basically not allowed to advocate for the

- child. It is extremely frustrating.
37. We should have the opportunity to be heard because we are raising these children. We know what they need on a daily basis. One day these kids might be taken from us, the child will be hurt and so will the foster parents. We have discussed not continuing as foster parents if this happens. The birth parent only wants some of her kids back. She has 8 and they might give them all back.
38. I'm a relative foster parent (sister to children's father). . . we are wanting to adopt and starting this process now.
39. I really get involved with the family and do all I can. I love people. I'll go the full mile for these children.
40. I have children of my own. And they enjoy and like all of children I had and also come out to help if I need help to go some place.
41. We take care of these children. They should have a voice through us.
42. I am able to foster parent but by desire is diminishing because I don't feel I'm listened to in what's best for the child, and what's best for the child is not a priority. Everything has gotten so difficult for us. All the new laws make things so hard on the kids & us.
43. I feel if the foster parents have more voice in the court process then this makes it easier for them to answer the child's questions and concerns as well as making the whole situation less stressful for everyone. Because after all it is the foster parents who are involved in the child's day to day life.
44. I think we need to be heard. We know these children better than anyone.
45. One wants to feel that his/her time invested in a child's nurturing is sincerely considered as well as recognized as an effective team player an advocate for the interest of the child in foster care. This is my sole reasons for providing my time and care.
46. Needs to be more understanding of the F.P. role and how they are partners - not babysitters
47. Right now I feel the DFCS only needs room and board the caseloads are too great and my input is minimal because the object is to "Remain w/ Birth Family" at any cost. Does what I say fall on dead ears? All outcomes are surprisingly adverse to child
- A major decision affecting his own life S/N/B procedurally handed out thereby forced to live all juvenile life with Bloodline of persons assaulting him.
48. I hope to continue foster parenting. I like helping children.
49. I am not sure about this question. But I always lose kids, I only had one and I enjoy helping the children to grow and be something in life so when they grow up they would say I taught them how and what to be for my self.
50. If I have no way of voicing my concerns for the children in my home

and their interaction and involvement with their birth families, I would have reservations about keeping kids.

51. The more you know the more you can assist DFCS with the care of the children in my home.
52. It is discouraging to have no voice, let alone information concerning the cases. We are kept in the DARK!
53. I feel that Foster parents concerns are only heard by the caseworker. The majority of the time, the caseworkers dismiss your concerns therefore, the problems are not addressed correctly.
54. Foster parents have first-hand knowledge of the birth parents interaction with the child
55. We feel we are not receiving help when we do speak. Foster parents are not given the credibility for what they observe with the children.

14. Would you support the use of a standardized form that would give foster parents and relative caregivers notice of hearings and notice of their right to have an opportunity to be heard? (Check only one answer)

yes	94.8%	(145)
I don't know	4.6%	(7)
no	0.7%	(1)
TOTAL	100.0%	153

15. Would you support the use of a standardized form that would assist foster parents and relative caregivers in providing relevant information to the court? (Check only one answer)

yes	90.8%	(139)
I don't know	6.5%	(10)
no	2.6%	(4)
TOTAL	100.0%	153

16. Comments:

1. There is no CASA in our county. I have never been notified or asked to appear in court for my foster children.
2. Yes to the previous questions but in our experience it seemed as though written information we gave was either never read or taken into consideration.
3. Would support question #15 only if standardized form were the beginning of the information sharing process and not the entire process. All too often forms become the be-all and end-all not the facilitating tool they are meant to be. We believe that foster parents have, as a part of their life experiences a vast well of intuitive knowledge that may not be able to be quantified or even qualified, but is still the basis for accurate and relevant observations.
4. It is our main concern that the children are thought of first. Adults, that may come forth after the child has been in care for any amount of time, should hear the voice and concerns of foster parents, and how a move may effect the child.
5. This is a good thing. I am happy that people who adopt and foster have right to be heard. Sometimes I feel that what we feel and think as far as our concerns about our children are not heard.

6. I love being a foster parent. I love my children.
7. This survey is a great ideal! I would support anything that would allow me to be heard in court.
8. God bless you and the work you are doing!
9. I would like to see legislative changes regarding required "reasonable efforts" for parents who have child after child year after year enter the system. I would like to see guardian ad litem who DO represent the children. I would like to see CASA in action.
10. My voice should be heard. How it is heard does not matter. It is my responsibility to ensure that it is heard with the correct intensity/feelings.
11. We both are parents to the children, so we should jointly have input as long as it is in the best interest of the child.
12. I would prefer the ability to speak in court at most, only to turn in a form if there may be future problems with the parents to keep my house safe.
13. In our County we are not encouraged to speak to the panels or Court. In fact, it is the opposite. We are told to only speak if asked, and most of the time we are only asked how the kids are doing and are only allowed to speak on that. Not any other relevant information can be passed.

The judges in our county WILL NOT allow the foster parents to be heard. Most of the time they never see the foster parent or the kids involved in the case.
14. My answers are based on a child who is no longer in my care; right now I am mainly a respite care provider. There are so many problems in the Foster Care System that I am considering deactivating. Thank you for this one aspect for potential improvement.
15. I would like feedback on any issues relating to foster children and legislative matters. Thank you.
16. If this is all we could get then yes I would vote for the form, but if we had a chance to be heard in person, in front of the judge and not be another form or piece of paper I think it would be much more effective. It is much more effective to see someone face to face to continue the process of a child's future and see first hand the love in his or her eyes that they have for one another.
17. Please don't always think that it is best to have kids returned to their natural families - I know it appears the optimum but I don't believe so.

Reunification is best doesn't cut it when the rubber meets the road!
18. In panel reviews the foster parent is asked to leave after we "tell our part". It makes me feel like a babysitter since I have to leave and wait outside with the children. I would like to be included in the panel review in its entirety unless asked to leave by the parents. There should be someone else to baby-sit the kids if its not appropriate for him or her

to be included in parts of the panel.

I have recently seen the panel ask the caseworkers to leave so they could talk to the parents. I feel the panel is getting a little too much power.

We are never routinely notified of hearing results unless we are called and told to "pack up the kid" he's going home!

19. It has been a unique challenge for me to do this survey. However, we need to have many more programs and written communications like this one. In addition, people need that follow up data to voice his or her concerns and knowledge about foster parents' populations. The array of questions can be a concise and vivid need for future, for your office, and the significant others. This is a well put together paper for a survey.
20. It has been our experience that the explanation of DFCS policy only comes when it appropriately eliminates the need for DFCS to "have to act." In other words, DFCS seems to use policy to get out of working or not having to meet a child's needs. DFCS usually responds by telling foster parents what "not to do."

I hope you can get someone honest to look into the conduct and practices of the supervisor our county and the director in another county.

By the way, the county director in our county is very responsive to helping the children!

21. It's all about the children being taken care of, and some parents just don't meet the condition.
22. We do not have a voice in court and we are the ones who know the child personally. The information would be valuable that we have no matter what the outcome. DFCS often want cases closed, so they share the info they want to share!
23. We are very pleased with the support we get from our DFCS. They are very supportive.
24. I think the children should have time with their foster parents should have before their parents see them because it do upset them very much. You have to start the children, yet them depress very. I think that would help them very much.
25. I enjoy being a Foster Parent, I think sometimes how lost I will be without my children, I am 54 years old and we have been parents since 93. I have had 40 children in my home and have adopted 2. It has been a blessing for us.

I think sometime that DFCS does drag on getting the information to the

court concerning these children, especially one child we have, we went to court three times to get non-reunification, DFCS in the County didn't have their stuff together so this child has been in Foster Care 2 years. This law about the child isn't suppose to say in care over a year, you need to take it out because it doesn't work, if it did why are these children still hung up in the system.

26. I believe foster parents know the foster children better than anyone else (GAL, CASA, etc.) They need to be able to speak to the judge & be heard **SHOULD** they feel the need.

Termination takes too long - they (parents) should have 1 year to meet case plan -- then termination, placement & adoption should be within 6 months. Our kids get too old & have numerous placements before these steps are taken. Our kids **LOSE**.

No one has **EVER** called us or contacted us in any way about any hearing or proceeding. We have always had to call and ask and are usually given "gray" explanations. We did testify in our first girl's termination only because we contacted her GAL and he requested we appear in court. It is so unfair to us. The courts decide the fate of our children, but they also are deciding the course of our lives. To lose our girls would be no less than losing a part of ourselves.

27. I do believe that as foster parents, the ones who take care of the child day in and day out we should be heard. The court system should make a way available to foster parents to speak.

In the panel reviews that I have been to made it clear I basically wasn't supposed to speak unless ask a question, and that from me a foster parent they only want to hear specifically about child's behavior or health. So I don't feel like you really have an opportunity to speak out for the child. They don't have to take anything we say into account, they certainly don't have to agree but they should take the time to listen.

I also feel strongly that Georgia needs to stop being a state that feels "biological parents and family are most important." If that were true we wouldn't have DFCS or foster parents. Each case should be looked at individually not all children should be with their biological parents or with family members. If that were so then that is a slap in the face to every family that has adopted and every baby and child who has been adopted.

28. Currently, I am not taking any foster children. Some caseworkers give foster parents very little respect. They treat us like babysitters, and as if we have no rights as far as foster children are concerned.

I had 1 child for over 1 year and **NEVER EVER** heard from the GAL nor was I told of any court dates.

29. Foster Parents play a big part in these children lives, please let us be heard. The courts need to stick to ALL laws handed down.

We have had our 2 children for 4 years and we can't get justice.

30. As the foster parent. . . we are the child's voice about his emotional stability, success in school, contact with biological parents, health issues & special needs, i.e. A.D.H.D-C.A.P.D, we're in contact with their doctors & teachers. . . we know our children best. . . we help them mend their hearts, understand true family love.. . provide stability for success in school and that parents are so much more than the ones who created you!

31. Who knows these children better than the foster parents who live with them? You're somewhat like a soul mate. They tell all their secrets through you learn about these children. You're in their head. We, the foster parent, need to work close to the judge. The CASA isn't the one that knows these children. It's the foster parent who knows these children.

32. Our adoption will be final Aug. 29. Our DFCS has been wonderful through this whole process. We were kept informed of everything concerning our child in care, who will soon be a "legal" part of our family.

33. [There is] no CASA [in our county], or panel reviews to look out for the child's best interests.

34. During our family's foster experiences the court process has been the most stressful part of all. We have only the information that is given to us by our social workers. Then when the family has a question they are unable to answer it because they are not lawyers.

There is also the issue of trying to work with 2 different counties and 2 different court systems. A lot of times this is the case because a child is in care in a county different from their birth family.

35. I have only had one (1) child in my care and the only hearing has been to terminate the rights of the mother. In this case an Aunt came forward and the Judge awarded the child to her care. DFCS did inform me of this hearing and I was told that I could attend but decided against it.

36. I know resources are limited to care for our children however, computers could be more effectively used to free human resources to follow-up important needs such as policing the well being of our foster children. Team resource networks would alleviate case burdens. The system can not continue to use excuses (limited resources) to justify child neglect. We must hold politicians, communities, and families accountable and responsible for the well being and safety of all children.

37. Hire a professional private agency to develop the questionnaire.

38. I am a long-term foster parent for 3 children. I don't attend panel reviews but would like to be involved in or know what plans are set for the family/parents. I would prefer attending the panel reviews.
39. Cannot understand why no information is passed on about this-DFCS workers seem to be overloaded and there is a rapid turnover rate at the DFCS office-STATE??? Typical red tape.
40. I feel that foster parents are not really important to the DFCS and are not given credit for all they do. They tend to come last in the child's life. Fostering is a lot of work and a 7 day 24 hour job. We have no rights. I would like to see Foster parents given more recognition.
41. Thank for giving me the opportunity to fill out the survey cause some of the questions should be address to court on behalf of court or judge when time for the children return home cause some don't need to return home when they do. Because I have seen some that need to be in foster care a little longer.
42. We had a foster child who should not have been placed back with his mother. We have contact with her, and as a result, we keep him most of the time, with no child support, no income tax deduction, no actual decision making when it comes to the child, because SHE has custody. We keep him so that he'll be safe.
43. Foster parents get very involved with children and their needs and how they are dealing with their home environments as they are being moved back and forth. Therefore I think foster parents have important input for the court and the panel reviews.
44. We attend court and hearings when notified. We are given the opportunity to speak. The only problem I/we (my wife and I) is we get notified the day before court/hearings. At times we cannot change our schedule to attend. More, advanced notices would help. The Judge always gives us a opportunity to speak. If we do not feel comfortable speaking about a tough issue we always give the info to DFCS Atty.
45. It is a lamentable fact that little information is given to foster caregivers. Children are sent home without courtesy to either the child or the foster parent.
- Few facts are shared and there is little time to acquaint yourself with the child's concerns.
- We witness actions at visitation meetings but no person to bring our concerns to.
46. I feel that the foster parents have vital information about the progress of the children in their homes. If given the opportunity and taken seriously they (foster parents) could help better the lives of these children.
47. We feel it is imperative foster parents are taken seriously and not treated as "Baby-sitters." We are not given the opportunity to input information and we are with the children 24 hours a day. There are so

many changes needed in the system. In MAPP class, we are told "This is a partnership" - not so.

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