



## **KVC Behavioral HealthCare POLICY STATEMENT ON DISCIPLINE**

Discipline is an essential part of child rearing and when used positively it contributes to the healthy growth and development of a child and establishes positive patterns of behavior in preparation for adulthood. The object of discipline is to promote behaviors that are beneficial to the child's development and welfare and to change and/or eliminate behaviors that are injurious to his or her well being. Therefore, we encourage positive discipline as a most important aspect of child rearing services and care.

Positive discipline, when used for purposes of guiding and teaching the child, provides the child encouragement, a sense of satisfaction and helps the child understand the consequences of his/her behavior. Effective positive discipline provides behavioral limits on the child that can provide the child a sense of security, engender a respect for order and enable the child to predict and understand his/her surroundings. This type of discipline effectively enlists the child's help rather than locking the child and adult into a power struggle or adversarial, punishing relationship and promotes the child's discovery of those values that will be of the greatest benefit to the child, both now and in the future.

There are laws, which protect adults against actions, which many children must endure and suffer under the guise of discipline. Many children who are in care have previously suffered too much physical pain, fear, humiliation, and emotional stress. We cannot perpetuate this when we assure the positive roles in our child rearing practices of which positive discipline is an essential part.

Therefore, KVC does not view as positive, acceptable discipline any action administered in a fashion which may cause any child to suffer physical or emotional damage. Disciplinary acts which cause pain, such as hitting, beatings, shakings, cursing, threatening, binding, closeting, prolonged isolation, denial of meals and derogatory remarks about the child or his/her family are not acceptable.

While the foregoing statement is not all-inclusive in terms of unacceptable forms of discipline, it does provide a guide for the establishment of the following statement of policy:

**IT SHALL BE THE POLICY OF KVC THAT NO FOSTER PARENT USE DISCIPLINARY ACTS WHICH CAUSE PAIN, SUCH AS HITTING, BEATING, SHAKING, CURSING, THREATENING, BINDING, CLOSETING, PROLONGED ISOLATION, DENIAL OF MEALS AND DEROGATORY REMARKS ABOUT THE CHILD OR HIS OR HER FAMILY.**

*By signing this document, I hereby acknowledge that I have read the policy statement and understand that by using disciplinary acts which are disapproved of MAY RESULT IN CLOSURE OF MY FOSTER HOME.*

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_