

## **GUIDELINES FOR SHARED LIVING AGREEMENT (SLA) BETWEEN CAREGIVER AND NON-MINOR DEPENDENT (NMD)**

The guidelines in this document outline a Shared Living Agreement as a basis for a written understanding between the caregiver and non-minor dependent on an array of expectations for placement in a household. It is broad in scope, covering many aspects of shared daily living; however each agreement will be individualized, reflecting the specific values, concerns and personalities of the caregiver and non-minor dependent who is now an adult. The agreement should aid in the creation and maintenance of a successful placement, which supports the non-minor dependent's continued transition to independent adulthood. Since individuals and circumstances change, the agreement will be renegotiated and updated, as needed and appropriate.

### **GUIDELINE TOPICS:**

These topics have been developed to assist in the completion of a meaningful Shared Living Agreement. Although the caregiver and non-minor dependent should discuss and agree upon the expectations, rights and/or responsibilities for each of the categories listed (i.e. Household Rules and Customs), the sublist under each category is intended to be a prompt only for discussion purposes. There is no need to reach agreement as to each item (for example, not every SLA will include an item about shared meals or holiday celebrations, or a curfew for the non-minor dependent). In addition, young adults and providers should also address any additional issues not included in the checklist that are important to their situation.

NOTE: If the placement or household is a currently licensed or approved facility where minor dependents are residing, all licensing rules remain in effect and must be followed. Nothing in this agreement can supersede or impinge on the licensing or approval standards that apply to the minor dependents living in the home.

NOTE: If you are a parenting non-minor dependent you should complete the Shared Responsibility Plan.

### **Mentoring/Skills/Interests**

May include:

- Interests of non-minor dependent
- Areas the non-minor dependent wants to gain skills or resources
- Strengths of the non-minor dependent and the provider
- Areas of shared interests

### **Household Agreements and Customs**

May include:

- ◆ Check in/curfew/communication on schedules and vacations
- ◆ Noise (i.e. loud music)
- ◆ Language (i.e. swearing, name calling)
- ◆ Cigarette smoking

- ◆ Guests in the house/appropriate visiting times (including overnight)/parties
- ◆ Shared items, including use of car
- ◆ Shared space
- ◆ Expectations regarding meals together, holidays, and other joint activities
- ◆ Television/computer/video games
- ◆ Furnishing/decorating
- ◆ Privacy for both caregiver and NMD
- ◆ House meetings/periodic check-ins

### **Health and Safety Concerns:**

May include:

- ◆ Sharing information on medications in case of emergency
- ◆ Sharing information on allergies (to foods or medications)

### **Household Chores and Responsibilities**

May include:

- ◆ Individual and/or Shared Chores: (i.e. cleaning, cooking, dishes, laundry, shopping, yard work, routine maintenance, care of pets, repair or replacement of broken/damaged items)

### **Attendance and Performance at School and or Work**

May include:

- ◆ Periodic check-in regarding school/work including schedules and progress made
- ◆ Tutoring and any other assistance needed in meeting school/work goals

### **Financial**

May include:

- ◆ Shared allocation of foster care benefit, specifying caregivers and NDM's allotment
- ◆ Financial responsibility for particular items/bills/expenses
- ◆ Monthly allowance or stipend/monitored or unmonitored by caregiver

### **Drugs and Alcohol**

May include:

- ◆ Clarity on response/consequences for drug and alcohol use both in and out of home (for ex., non-minor dependent expected to attend counseling for repeated use)

### **Conflict Resolution**

May include:

- ◆ Non-minor dependent and caregiver meeting individually and/or together with CSW
- ◆ Non-minor dependent and caregiver meeting individually and/or together with a Case Manager
- ◆ Non-minor dependent and caregiver meeting individually and/or together with an outside counselor
- ◆ Written plan for resolving conflict/consequences for violations of agreement