

**Helping Other People's Enrichment, Inc. (HOPE)  
Corporal Punishment Statement**

It is the policy of HOPE Inc. and the Commonwealth of Virginia that its staff and Treatment foster parents are not, under any circumstances, to use corporal/physical punishment or allow others to use corporal/physical punishment with children placed in the care of the agency.

Corporal punishment is a discipline method in which a supervising adult deliberately inflicts pain or discomfort upon a child in response to a child's unacceptable behavior and/or inappropriate language. The immediate aims of such punishment are usually to halt the offense, prevent its recurrence and set an example for others.

HOPE Inc. prohibits the use of corporal punishment. Research on corporal punishment has shown that it may be harmful. Many other methods of discipline are effective in promoting self-control, eliminating undesirable behaviors and promoting desired behaviors in children.

Corporal punishment signals to the child that a way to settle interpersonal conflicts is to use physical force and inflict pain. Such children may in turn resort to such behavior themselves. They may also fail to develop trusting, secure relationships with adults and fail to evolve the necessary skills to settle disputes or exercise authority in less violent ways.

Prohibited actions and procedures include, but are not limited to:

1. Spanking, slapping, switching or hitting a child with your hand or any object
2. Pinching, pulling, biting, shaking
3. Binding a child
4. Forcing a child to assume an uncomfortable position
5. Locking a child in a room or closet
6. Loss or threat of loss/restriction of a child's contact with his/her parents
7. Denial or threat of denial of mail sent to the child
8. Threats of removal from the treatment home
9. Threats of physical harm
10. Denial or threats of denial of basic needs including meals
11. Emotionally demeaning or humiliating actions or consequences.

**The prohibition is in effect whether punishment is spontaneous or a deliberate technique for effecting behavioral change or part of a behavior management program. This statement applies to any child placed by HOPE Inc.**

Corporal punishment of a foster child is child abuse and HOPE Inc. policy requires it be reported to Child Protective Services for screening. Any violation of the Corporal Punishment policy also requires an Internal Investigation by HOPE Inc.

By signing below, I confirm my acknowledgement of HOPE 's policy regarding corporal punishment and agree to follow the policy statement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Treatment Foster Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
H.O.P.E Inc. Staff person

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date