



### **LOCAL REVIEW BOARD MEMBER PLEDGE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, recognize that acting as an appointed member to a local Foster Care Review Board is an important responsibility that can have a significant impact on the children and families of South Carolina who are involved with the foster care system. I hereby pledge to carry out these responsibilities diligently and empathetically.

I acknowledge that my primary role as a local Foster Care Review Board member is to conduct independent and objective third-party reviews of foster care cases to monitor their progress and make recommendations regarding the permanent plan of children in foster care while identifying barriers within the foster care system that impact permanency.

I agree to support the mission of the Foster Care Review Division to provide external accountability for the foster care system and to advocate on behalf of children in foster care to work toward the division's vision of South Carolina making child well-being a top priority by assuring safe, permanent families for all children in foster care by completing the following duties:

- Attend the full day for at least half of all regularly scheduled reviews and fully devote my attention to the information presented while treating all participants respectfully and with empathy.
- Maintain confidentiality of all information presented during Review Board meetings, including ensuring that all information remains confidential if participating virtually by not participating in reviews in a common area accessible to others in my household.
- Participate in review meetings while maintaining the permanency and best interest of the child as the priority at all times.
- Maintain a non-biased, non-judgmental demeanor in reviews, including sensitivity to the child and family's culture, ethnic identity, religion, gender, and socioeconomic status.
- Make all recommendations based on the information presented and without allowing any personal biases or feelings to impact those recommendations.
- Work in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) to identify barriers, both case specific and systemic, impacting a child's permanency or case progress and work to problem solve and troubleshoot these barriers.
- Act in a professional manner that is representative of an individual in a gubernatorially appointed position.



South Carolina Division of  
**FOSTER CARE  
REVIEW**  
Dept. of Children's Advocacy

- Be proactive in identifying barriers and gaps within the foster care system and work in collaboration with SCDSS and other community partners to address these concerns.
- Attend one day of orientation training within six months of my appointment to ensure that I understand processes and statute governing Foster Care Review Board meetings.
- Fully disclose any possible conflicts of interest that I may have in regard to any child or family scheduled for review with my local Board.
- Attend two regularly scheduled professional development opportunities offered by the Foster Care Review Division to receive updates and training on best practices so that I am providing high quality reviews for children in foster care.
- Serve in positions of leadership on my local Review Board as needed to ensure optimal functionality of my local Board.
- Participate in community partner meetings as requested in an effort to develop and strengthen community relationships to better serve children and families involved with the foster care system.
- Communicate with my local legislative delegation members and advocate for statute or regulation changes on behalf of children in South Carolina.
- Participate in service projects initiated by my local Review Board to support children in foster care and address systemic barriers impeding timely permanency.
- Work to educate my community about the needs of children and families involved with the foster care system to aid in strengthening community resources and networks to assist in the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

---

**Signature**

---

**Date**