



# Social Media Guidelines

A Guide for Foster Parents and Kinship Caregivers Prepared by the Tennessee Department of Children's Services



## Confidentiality Is Key

Social media connections are an important part of many families' lives, and at DCS, we know that thousands of Tennesseans use these channels to share and connect with their friends.

When it comes to sharing information about youth in state custody on social media sites, Foster parents must use their best judgment. And, though we want the children and youth to participate fully in family life and activities, confidentiality is a must -- even in the digital realm.

## Before You Post

Foster parents and relative providers who use social media sites can post photos and videos on social networking sites that include foster children and youth, if the following conditions are met:

- Posting family photographs must be discussed within the Child and Family Team and agreed upon by the whole team, which includes birth parents, if they are active and involved, and the child, if age appropriate.
- The children are not identified by name.
- The children are not identified as foster children.
- There is no discussion on social media sites and websites about the child, the child's case or the child's family.
- Secure your privacy settings and location settings.
- Talk to the youth and make sure he or she is comfortable with your sharing information and images.

