



Keeping Families Together *Advocacy Training*

This past legislative session, a brand new section of law was created called the “*Child in Voluntary Foster Care for Treatment*” (Chapter 260D) to bring clarity to voluntary placement agreements when a child has an emotional disturbance or a developmental disability. While much of the language from the CHIPS statute was taken out and moved to this new section, there were some other significant changes that were made.

The new law makes it clear that the reason for what is now referred to as a voluntary foster care agreement is for the safety, health, and the best interests of the child. It is about treatment for the child, preserving and strengthening the child's family ties whenever possible, and approving the child's placement away from the child's parents only when the child's need for care or treatment requires it. There is very clear language to ensure the child's parent retains legal custody of the child and associated decision-making authority.

NAMI Minnesota, through a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services, has been holding free trainings for professionals and parents. On January 22, NAMI Minnesota will offer a version of this training just for advocates. The training will be presented by Kathy Kosnoff, J.D., an attorney and voluntary placement agreement expert, and Lynne Peterson, a NAMI Minnesota parent expert. In this training, you will learn:

- What a voluntary foster care agreement is, how it should be used, and how it can be terminated.
- The court review requirements of a voluntary placement agreement.
- How to advocate for parents and their children.
- What families need to know to navigate the process.

The training will be held January 22, 2009, from 1 pm – 3 pm at the Roseville Public Library (2180 North Hamline, Roseville MN 55113). The training is free but pre-registration is required. To register, please fill out the registration form and mail or fax it to NAMI Minnesota.

Name _____ County _____

Profession _____ Organization _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

How did you hear about the training? _____

Please contact Lynne Peterson at 651-645-2948 x119 or lpeterson@nami.org with questions or for more information.

NAMI Minnesota

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