

New Beginnings Family and Children's Services, Inc.
Policy Against Corporal Punishment

Intent: The policy establishes a prohibition on the use of corporal punishment for our adoptive parents. Eastern Social Welfare Society in Korea currently requires pre-adoptive parents to state that they will not use corporal punishment on children from Korea. The State of New Jersey has a similar, although less restrictive, prohibition, 3A:50-5.6(f)10. Adoptees are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of corporal punishment. (See Dr. Karyn Purvis, *The Connected Child*.) A policy to prohibit corporal punishment would unify the requirements and provide additional protections to the children placed by New Beginnings.

Definition of Terms: Corporal punishment means the infliction of pain or discomfort. Corporal punishments include, but is not limited to, hitting with any part of the body or with an implement, pinching, pulling, shaking, binding of a child, forcing them to assume an uncomfortable position, or locking in a room or closet, psychological abuse, humiliation, abusive language, binding or tying to restrict movement, and the withdrawal or forcing of food and other basic needs.

Policy: Prospective Adoptive Parents must sign a statement that they will not use corporal punishment as a means of discipline on their adoptive child. The statement would be included in the Dossier Guide when the family is starting the home study process. It can be presented in response to the Adoptive Family Profile when the family indicates they use physical punishment in the profile.

If a family refuses to sign the statement, New Beginnings can decline services. To educate our families on the potential harm in physically disciplining their adoptive child, the Director of Social Services shall compile or cause to collect information to distribute to families.

When New Beginnings is not the placing agency, we will communicate a refusal to sign the policy to the placing agency for their determination.

The Prohibition Against Corporal Punishment is to be drafted by the Adoption Committee and volunteers from the Board of Directors.