**applicable laws, regulations and/or standards:**

**Federal Laws:**

*N/A*

**State Laws:**

[*A.R.S. § 15-761. Definitions*](http://www.azleg.state.az.us/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/ars/15/00761.htm&Title=15&DocType=ARS)

[*A.R.S. § 8-529. Children in Foster Care; Rights*](http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/ars/8/00529.htm&Title=8&DocType=ARS)

**Regulations:**

[*A.A.C. R9-20-203. Client Rights*](http://www.azsos.gov/public_services/Title_09/9-20.htm)

[*A.A.C. R9-20-216. Emergency Safety Response*](http://www.azsos.gov/public_services/Title_09/9-20.htm)

[*A.A.C. R9-20-404. Supplemental Requirements for an Agency that Provides Behavioral Health Services to Children*](http://www.azsos.gov/public_services/Title_09/9-20.htm)

**COA Standards:**

[*BSM Introduction: Behavior Support and Management*](http://coanet.org/standard/bsm/)

[*BSM 1: Philosophy and Organization Policy*](http://coanet.org/standard/bsm/1/)

[*BSM 2: Behavior Support and Management Practices*](http://coanet.org/standard/bsm/2/)

[*BSM 3: Safety Training*](http://coanet.org/standard/bsm/3/)

[*BSM 4: Restrictive Behavior Management Intervention Training*](http://coanet.org/standard/bsm/4/)

*[BSM 5: Restrictive Behavior Management Interventions](http://coanet.org/standard/bsm/5/)*

[*BSM 6: Documentation and Debriefing*](http://coanet.org/standard/bsm/6/)

# Policy:

All children who are recipients of services from Arizona’s Children Association (AzCA) are entitled to and shall be treated with dignity and respect, in a culture that promotes healing and provides each child the support needed to manage his or her own behavior. AzCA’s policies and practices promote positive behavior and protect the safety of service recipients and staff. This policy is in addition to existing State regulations, rules and policies relating to behavior support and management.

Arizona’s Children Association is committed to building the awareness of trauma informed practices and promoting and implementing these practices across programs statewide. Techniques such as manual restraint, mechanical restraint, chemical restraint or seclusion, are strictly prohibited with all clients served. Furthermore, for the purpose of licensing foster homes, AzCA requires that all regular and therapeutic licensed foster families adhere to the AzCA Permissible Behavior Management Technique policy, not only with foster children, but with any child in their home.

Techniques utilized by all service providers at AzCA are rooted in trauma informed care (TIC) and are focused on the vulnerability of the client and the trauma reminders that can be reintroduced when services are delivered without an awareness of the impact of trauma. Below are some techniques designed to manage the surface behaviors often exhibited by children and adolescents. These intervention techniques are approved by AzCA for use in all programs and are individually determined and implemented, based on the assessment of the client and their designated targeted behaviors.

# Approved procedures/Practices

* Active Listening
* Conflict Resolution
* Consistent Routines
* Directive Statements
* Caring Gestures
* Logical & Natural Consequences
* Prompting
* Positive Reinforcement
* Redirection

Creating a Safe Environment AzCA provides parenting education that is geared towards improving parents’, including foster parents’, abilities in facilitating and promoting positive behaviors. We also provide psycho-education around the impact of trauma to caretakers/parents. TX 301.02 is shared with all foster parents, as a part of the licensing process and foster parents sign a Permissible Behavior Management agreement, prior to any child being placed in their care.

# staff training

Arizona’s Children Association has recognized Trauma Informed Care (TIC) training for all staff and foster parents as primary focus for the agency in our 5 year strategic plan, beginning in 2013. AzCA has a subcommittee and representative of staff across all programs that meets monthly to discuss trauma informed service delivery and staff training.

AzCA also trains staff and foster parents not only to prevent volatile situations but also how to effectively manage and de-escalate volatile situations. This is critical in creating a safe environment for families and staff. Below is a list of some of the trainings used depending on position, program and type of foster care license.

* Effective Response to Crisis Intervention (Relias, web-based training course)
* Crisis Management (Relias, web-based training course)
* Calming Children in Crisis (Relias, web-based training course)
* De-escalation and Behavior Management (DEBM) (Required for all licensed therapeutic foster homes)
* Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI)
* Core Curriculum on Childhood Trauma (CCCT from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network-NCTSN)

# Behavior Management plans

All children are screened for potential danger to self, others and level of intervention upon intake. The design and delivery of behavior management plans are detailed within applicable program plans and adhere to AzCA’s Permissible Behavior Management Techniques policy, as well as all existing State regulations, rules and policies relating to behavior support and management.

