Kentucky Early Intervention System
Provider Code of Ethical Conduct

Name: _____ Agency: _____

The Kentucky Early Intervention System Provider Code of Ethical Conduct establishes a set of guidelines for appropriate, professional behavior. This code serves to assist Kentucky Early Intervention System providers in evaluating their current practice, assessing and resolving potential ethical dilemmas, and ensuring a commitment to family-centered, inclusive and culturally competent care.

The Kentucky Early Intervention System Provider Code of Ethical Conduct will be referenced when investigating complaints regarding unethical or inappropriate behavior. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services may terminate any provider agreement immediately should egregious or persistent code violations be found. For this reason, it is important that all Kentucky Early Intervention System providers review this code and ensure that their current practice is reflective of the ethical standards outlined herein.

I. Principles of Ethical Responsibilities to Children

1) Above all, Kentucky Early Intervention System providers shall not harm children. Kentucky Early Intervention System providers shall not participate in practices that are emotionally damaging, physically harmful, disrespectful, degrading, dangerous, exploitative or intimidating to children. This principle has precedence over all others in this code.
2) Kentucky Early Intervention System providers shall be familiar with the risk factors for and symptoms of child abuse and neglect, including physical, sexual, verbal and emotional abuse and physical, emotional, educational and medical neglect.
3) Kentucky Early Intervention System providers shall know and follow state laws and community procedures that protect children against abuse and neglect and shall report suspected child abuse or neglect to the appropriate entity as provided in KRS 620.030.

II. Principles of Ethical Responsibilities to Families

1) Kentucky Early Intervention System providers shall recognize and respect the dignity, diversity and autonomy of the families and children they serve.
2) Kentucky Early Intervention System providers shall demonstrate respect and appreciation for all families' beliefs, values, customs, languages and culture relative to their nurturance and support of their children toward achieving meaningful and relevant priorities and outcomes families' desire for themselves and their children.
3) Kentucky Early Intervention System providers shall respect, value, promote and encourage the active participation of ALL families by engaging families in meaningful ways in the assessment and intervention processes.
4) Kentucky Early Intervention System providers shall provide services and supports to children and families in a fair and equitable manner while respecting families' culture, race, language, socioeconomic status, marital status and sexual orientation.
5) Kentucky Early Intervention System providers shall recognize their responsibility to improve the developmental outcomes of children and to provide services and supports in a fair and equitable manner to all families and children.
6) Kentucky Early Intervention System providers shall acknowledge their responsibility to establish and maintain an effective method of communication and collaboration with parents and primary caregivers.
7) Kentucky Early Intervention System providers shall be responsible for protecting the

confidentiality of the children and families they serve by protecting all forms of verbal, written, and electronic communication.

8) Kentucky Early Intervention System providers shall not engage in or support exploitation of families. Providers shall not:
    a. solicit business for their agency, other providers, spouse or immediate family;
    b. sell or market products while representing Kentucky Early Intervention System;
    c. lobby to families within the system while representing Kentucky Early Intervention System;
    d. use their relationship with a family for private advantage or personal gain; or
    e. enter into relationships with family members that might impair their effectiveness working with the child and family.
9) Kentucky Early Intervention System providers shall not bring children, minors or other individuals not directly involved in the provision of care of the child, to early intervention services or the residence of the child or family. Doing so would be considered a breach of confidentiality and would interfere with the provider's ability to perform their job. Parents may not be requested to waive this provision.
10) Kentucky Early Intervention System providers shall empower families with information and resources so that they are informed consumers of services for their children.

III. Principles of Ethical Responsibilities to the Kentucky Early Intervention System

1) Kentucky Early Intervention System providers shall meet and maintain all ethical codes as established by individual licensing agencies.
2) Kentucky Early Intervention System providers shall recognize and uphold professional boundaries of their role as an early intervention service provider when working with children and families.
3) Kentucky Early Intervention System providers shall not serve children and families who are first degree or second degree relatives of the provider.
4) Kentucky Early Intervention System providers shall recognize the contributions of colleagues to our program and not participate in practices that diminish their reputations or impair their effectiveness in working with children and families.

I certify that I have read and understand the above provisions for ethical practice for the Kentucky Early Intervention System.

_____ _____

Signature Date