

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Gov. Chris Christie Appoints Foster and Adoptive Family Services' James Chester
to State of New Jersey's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect**

*FAFS' Director of Support Services joins groundbreaking team to ensure the well-being
of children*

(Monmouth Junction, NJ) – March 23, 2011 -- Foster and Adoptive Family Services' (FAFS) Director of Support Services James Chester was appointed to the State of New Jersey's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect (NJTFCAN) by Governor Chris Christie on March 14, 2011. Chester will serve on the NJTFCAN with fellow direct appointees who have demonstrated their concern for the welfare of children, including representatives from the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) and the public.

"For almost two decades, James has demonstrated his commitment to New Jersey's resource families through his advocacy and support," said Mary Jane Awrachow, FAFS' Executive Director. "This appointment will allow James to bring their voice to the highest levels of state government."

"I'm proud and excited to be appointed as the Foster and Adoptive Family Services representative to the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect," said Chester, "and I look forward to serving the children and families of New Jersey in that capacity."

Foster and Adoptive Family Services is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. FAFS' mission is to provide support, training and advocacy to meet the special needs of foster, adoptive and kinship families, who provide safe, stable and nurturing homes for children in foster care. To learn more about FAFS, please visit www.fafsonline.org.

The Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect was created by Executive Order in 1983 to provide recommendations to improve the State's ability to respond to cases of child abuse and neglect, educate the public in child abuse prevention, and educate professionals in child abuse treatment. In 1996, the NJTFCAN was established. The NJTFCAN's responsibilities were broader in scope, providing recommendations on State supported services and DYFS policies and procedures. In 2007, the NJTFCAN's responsibilities once again expanded to offer recommendations on the policies and procedures of the Division of Prevention and Community Partnerships in the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The NJTFCAN, in tandem with the Department of Human Services and the DCF, continues to create and implement successful programs in child abuse prevention, treatment and education. To learn more about the NJTFCAN, visit <http://www.state.nj.us/dcf/about/commissions/njtfcan/>.

To see the complete list of Governor Christie's direct appointments to the NJTFCAN, visit <http://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/552011/approved/20110315a.html>.

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