

**Tuscarawas County Job & Family Services**  
**QUESTIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED BY NEW FOSTER PARENTS**  
**(Updated April 2019)**

**(1) What is the per diem paid to foster parents per child?**

\$28 per day.

**(2) What is included in the per diem?**

food	personal incidentals	recreational activities
shelter	haircuts	
allowances	liability insurance	formula

**(3) Is there any help with clothing or incidentals?**

For the first time a child is placed in foster care you are permitted to spend up to \$150.00 for clothing. Monthly thereafter, you may purchase \$50.00 of clothing as needed for ages 0-6, \$62.50 for ages 7-12, and \$71.00 for ages 13-18.

Only clothing, coats, shoes, and boots may be purchased for foster children.

In addition, foster caregivers may purchase the following personal incidentals up to the annual limits listed:

Over the counter medications (e.g. vitamins, cough medication, Tylenol) as recommended by a physician, \$100.00/year.

Infant and Toddler supplies (e.g. diapers, wipes) up to \$250.00/year.

**(4) How much is the mileage reimbursement? And what does the agency pay it for?**

\$.50 per mile; for transporting the child to counseling, psychological testing, visitations with birth family, medical and dental appointments, court hearings, other specific transportation needs for a particular foster child.

**(5) What is the agency's philosophy?**

The best place for children is with their birth parents, and our agency works hard for reunification of children in foster care with their birth parents. If reunification is not possible, then our agency looks diligently for relative or kinship families to care for the children. If a relative or kinship family cannot be found, then our agency files for permanent custody of the children. All decisions about children in the care of our agency focus on the best interests of the child.

**(6) Can foster children stay overnight with a friend?**

Yes, a child can stay overnight up to 3 days with a friend (or one of your relatives) with whom you are comfortable. The names and address for any overnight stays must be noted on your Monthly Report for that child, which you send to the agency.

**(7) Can foster families take the foster child out of the county or state without the permission of the agency?**

**A. OUT OF COUNTY:**

**Less than 24 hours:**

YES, if travel is for a period of time less than 24 hours.

**More than 24 hours:**

NO, the foster caregiver is required to provide advanced notice to the agency. Said notification should include the destination for the travel, the length of time at the destination, and a means by which the agency can contact the foster caregiver or child if necessary.

**B. OUT OF STATE:**

NO, for out of state travel the agency must give advance approval, and the agency attempts to seek prior approval by the birth parents of the child. If out-of-state travel is approved, the foster caregiver is required to obtain (in advance of the travel), Form SS 131 Travel and Medical Authorization.

**(8) If a foster family works till 4:00 pm and the child gets home from school at 3:30, how does the foster family get a babysitter approved by the agency?**

- A) A licensed day care center may be used, or
- B) You can use an agency approved private child care providers. Our agency has a Child Care Unit, and you can request a list of private child care providers.
- C) Have a friend or relative watch for ½ hour.

**(9) Are foster children allowed to get a driver's license?**

Yes, if the agency director and foster family feel the foster child has the maturity to be a responsible driver, and the foster family is willing to put the foster child on their insurance. (See Agency Policy "Children in Custody Driver's Training, Operating and Owning Vehicles" for more specifics.)

**(10) What is the agency's position about birth parent preference for religious practices of the foster child while in foster care?**

Birth parents are asked their religious preference for their children in agency custody, and foster families are expected to respect the preference of the birth parents. If the preference is that the children not attend any services, then foster

families must make other child care arrangements while the foster family attends religious services or activities.

- (11) What steps does a foster family take if a foster child has a fall or injury?**

A foster family should notify the agency immediately if it occurs during office hours. If the incident occurs evenings or weekends, the foster family should notify the on-call worker by calling the Tuscarawas Co. Sheriff's Department at 330-339-2000.

- (12) Can a foster family get a haircut for a foster child?**

A foster family must contact the child's case manager, so that permission from the birth parents can be requested to obtain a haircut for the foster child.

- (13) Who pays for dance lessons, swimming lessons, prom expenses, photos, class rings, etc.?**

Foster caregivers may purchase the following personal incidentals up to the annual limits listed:

Fees related to activities (e.g. boy/girl scouts, sports) up to \$100.00/year.

Special lessons (e.g. horseback riding, piano or other instrument) up to \$250.00/year.

Graduation Expenses up to \$1500.00.

Contact the child's caseworker for more information.

- (14) Can a foster child shoot a B.B. gun?**

No (See Agency Policy "Hunters' Safety Course, Using and Owning Firearms and Weapons" for more specifics).

- (15) Who can a foster child make phone calls to?**

A foster family needs to discuss this issue with the child's case manager, as an individual assessment needs to be made on each family situation.

- (16) Do foster parents have to pay taxes on the foster care per diem received?**

No, the foster care per diem received is not income; it is reimbursement for expenses incurred on behalf of the foster child.

- (17) Can I put pictures of foster children on Facebook?**

No, you are not allowed to post pictures or any information pertaining to the

foster child on any social networking site. You may be able to share a picture on a "private" family page, this can be discussed with the child's caseworker or foster care staff.

**(18) Can I claim a foster child when I file my Income Tax Return?**

TCJFS recommends consulting your tax advisor before claiming a foster child on your taxes.