

**TUSCARAWAS COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES
CHILDREN SERVICES POLICY
REIMBURSEMENT FOR FOSTER CAREGIVERS**

POLICY

Foster homes certified by Tuscarawas County Job & Family Services are reimbursed pursuant to the following guidelines:

A. Foster Care Rates:

1. Purpose - The foster care per diem is intended to cover the following costs for each child placed in their home: food, shelter, haircuts, allowances, and liability insurance. All reimbursements for clothing and incidentals are calculated on a rolling year basis and not to exceed \$1500 for clothing and \$3000 for incidentals. The agency recommends that each foster family consult with its insurance company to determine the necessity and scope of additional liability insurance as a foster caregiver.

****Also, see Policy 600.18.0 regarding Liability Insurance Coverage for Agency Foster Home.**

2. Rates:

Per diem of \$32.00 - This per diem is reimbursed for children ages birth to 18 years, and for any children who remain in custody beyond age 18 and through 20 years of age. A per diem of \$50 per day (up to 7 days) will be paid for emergency short term foster care.

3. Procedure for receiving monthly foster care reimbursement:

- b. Foster Caregivers complete monthly Statement (form SS 73) and a Caregiver Monthly Report (form SS 68) for the children in their care during the previous calendar month.
- c. The monthly Statement is submitted to the agency by the 5th of the next month; monthly Statements received after the 5th may not be paid until the following month.
- d. Reimbursement is issued from the County Auditor's Office.

4. Calculating "days in care":

- a. The day a child is placed is counted in the calculation.
- b. The day a child is removed is not counted in the calculation.
- c. Exception - When a child is placed on an emergency basis both the placement day and the removal day are counted.
- d. Temporary absences (examples: camp, hospitalization, respite*, visitation with family or kin) of 14 days or less, when the child is expected to return to the same placement, are counted in the calculation.

***NOTE:** Foster Caregivers are responsible for reimbursing other Foster Caregivers who provide respite for them.

B. Clothing and Special Needs of Foster Children

1. Prior authorization is not required:

- a. A maximum of \$1500 a year of clothing for each foster child. Receipts should be turned in with the monthly statement but will not be reimbursed if they are turned in past 90 days of the purchases.
- b. In addition, foster caregivers may purchase the following personal incidentals up to the annual limits listed in Policy# 600.2.0 Cost Guidelines and Limitations for Children in Custody:
 - i. School supplies
 - ii. Over the counter medications (e.g., vitamins, cough medication, Tylenol) as recommended by a physician.
 - iii. Infant and Toddler supplies (e.g., diaper, wipes) Formula should be obtained thru the WIC program.
 - iv. Fees related to activities (e.g., boy/girl scouts, sports, camps, school trips)
 - v. Special lessons (e.g., horseback riding, piano or other music lessons)
 - vi. Graduation Expenses
- c. See also, Children Services Policy 600.2.0, Cost Guidelines and Limitations.
 - i. Foster Caregivers submit the original, itemized receipt attached to form BO 66 for reimbursement.
 - ii. A separate receipt must be submitted for each child and include the child's name, an itemized list of purchases, and the Foster Caregiver's signature.
 - iii. Sales tax can be reimbursed.

2. Prior authorization is required:

- a. Foster Caregivers must request prior written authorization from the Business Office to charge, or purchase for reimbursement, more than the \$1500 a year in clothing.
-AND-
- b. Other personal incidentals
- c. See also, Children Services Policy 600.2.0, Cost Guidelines and Limitations.

C. Medical Costs

1. Medical costs for children in custody are paid by birth parents, Medicaid, community resources, the child's income, or the agency. See Children Services Policy 500.18.0, Securing Income, Benefits and Payment for Health Care for Children in Custody.
Foster Caregivers should not pay for any medical treatment or prescription medication for foster children in their care.

D. Mileage for Transportation

1. Agency agrees to pay for necessary and reasonable transportation costs incurred by Foster Parent(s) at a rate of sixty (\$.60) cents per mile or the current rate as established by the Tuscarawas County Commissioners for transporting a foster child to counseling, psychological testing, visitation, medical and dental appointments, agency and court visits.
2. Foster Caregivers complete a Transportation Billing form (BO 11) and submit it monthly to the agency on or before the 5th working day of each month.*

E. Training Reimbursement.

1. All training reimbursement must be prior approved by the Placement Services Supervisor or Foster Care Worker before processing for payment.
2. Each Foster Caregiver is reimbursed \$15 (state reimbursement) per in person/Instructor led training hour, up to a maximum of 30 hours per re-certification period.
3. When state reimbursement is available to either Foster Caregiver in the household, the agency will not reimburse other training expenses.
4. When state reimbursement is not available (training hours over 30 hours per re-certification period) to either Foster Caregiver in the household, the agency will reimburse the following:
 - a. Sixty (\$.60) cents per mile for out-of-county travel to and from the training site.
 - b. Childcare costs for Foster Caregivers' own children and foster children while Caregivers attend training as a couple, if one spouse is working and the other attends training, or while a single Foster Caregiver attends training; reimbursement is \$10.00 per hour per child, up to a maximum of 12 hours per day. This cost will include all children needing care (not per child).
5. Reimbursement is not usually given for registration fees, meals, lodging, or childcare for overnight stays. Special, prior approval must be received from the Placement Services Supervisor or Foster Care Worker.
6. Foster Caregivers submit a completed Transportation Billing (BO 11) and a Certificate of Attendance for the training to the Foster Care Worker.*

F. Water Tests

1. The agency reimburses Foster Caregivers or directly pays the Health Department the cost of water testing when such a test is required for initial certification and annually thereafter.

G. Criminal Records Check

1. The agency pays the cost(s) of the criminal records checks required for certification and recertification.

H. Hospitalization-related Expenses

1. Foster Caregivers are reimbursed the following hospitalization-related expenses when a foster child is hospitalized:
 - a. Sixty cents (\$.60) per mile for travel to and from the hospital
 - b. Vehicle parking charges (must submit receipt)
 - c. Childcare costs for Caregivers' children and other foster children when both Caregivers are visiting the hospital, or when one spouse is working, or when a single Foster Caregiver is visiting; reimbursement is \$10.00 per hour per child, up to a maximum of 12 hours per day. This cost will include all children needing care (not per child).
 - d. Overnight lodging - must be approved in advance.
2. Foster Caregivers submit a completed Transportation Billing (BO 11) with receipts for childcare, parking, and lodging to the child's Case Worker.*

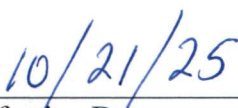
*All reimbursements are processed within the agency for accuracy and approval; reimbursement is issued from the County Auditor's Office.

I. Reimbursement for Child Care Costs

1. When a foster parent who is licensed by TCJFS is employed outside of the home, childcare may be reimbursed as set forth in Rule 5101:2-16-10. Foster Parent must submit a Child Care Application for Foster Child (BO 67a) to the Business Office.
2. Foster parents must utilize a childcare setting that is licensed or certified by the state of Ohio (unless otherwise authorized), if possible. If there is not a licensed or certified provider available, the foster parent must use the reasonable and prudent parenting standard in choosing a childcare provider. If the foster parent utilizes a provider that is not licensed or certified, the ceiling rate of the non-licensed provider will be 75% of the ceiling rate of a similarly situated licensed provider. Payments will be made directly to the foster parent for non-licensed providers.
3. Eligibility for reimbursement of employment-related childcare is not based upon the income of the foster family.
4. Foster parents will be reimbursed as directed by childcare staff and in accordance with Rule 5101:2-16-10, as applicable.
5. The Foster Child Care forms BO 67b (Child Care Invoice for Foster Child) and BO 68 (Foster Parent Monthly Work or Required Activities Schedule for Child Care Purposes) are available to be accessed through the agency's website, www.tcjfs.org, and any questions regarding the process should be addressed with the agency's Business Office.



Veronica Spidell, Director



Effective Date