

EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR MINORS IN FOSTER FAMILY HOMES

- AUTHORITY:** Sections 900-902, Welfare and Institutions Code
Board of Supervisors Resolution 85-1654
- RESCINDS:** Procedure Manual Item 2-6-208, dated 05/05/14
- FORMS** Foster Parents Agreement (SOC 156) (State Dept. of Social Services)
Supplemental Admission Agreement (Unit Form)
Notice of Placement (Unit Form)
- PURPOSE:** To provide guidelines for placement deputies to request funds for minors in foster family homes.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. Minors with custody vested with the Probation Officer for suitable placement and authorized to draw county funds are eligible for foster care.
- B. By Resolution of the Board of Supervisors, certain amounts have been established for the care and maintenance of minors in foster family homes.
- C. Foster Family Homes are homes certified by the Orange County Probation Department's Foster Family Program where minors can receive the least restrictive and most supportive foster care environment possible.
1. Foster care rates are paid based on the age of the minor. The two categories used by the Foster Family Program are ages 12-14 and 15-21.
 2. The basic foster family care rates for basic needs, plus care and supervision, are **\$820** and **\$859** per month, respectively.
 3. In addition, special rates may be allowed when a child requires greater than normal care and supervision as a result of health, physical, emotional, behavioral, or educational problems. The rate for each child must be determined on an individual basis by the Placement deputy and approved by the Placement supervisor and the Juvenile Field Supervision Director. This rate remains in effect for one year from the date it is approved. At the end of that year and each subsequent year that the need still exists, the additional rate must be reviewed using the same procedure as the first request. Standards for determining the child's need for greater than basic care and supervision are as follows:
 - a. Moderate Care Increment (\$934/971 per month): The child requires frequent, special individual care and supervision because of one or more of the following conditions:
 - (1) Ongoing aggressive or destructive behavior to the degree that the child must be supervised most of the time and/or the caretaker must employ specific handling, discipline, or intervention techniques.

- (2) Daytime enuresis, encopresis, hyperactivity, minimal brain dysfunction, or frequent emotional/ behavioral problems.
 - (3) Emotional problems which chronically result in serious peer relationship problems, attachment disorder behaviors such as indiscriminate affection, rejection of caretaker, food hoarding, excessive lying or stealing, or other behaviors which interfere with age appropriate relationships.
 - (4) Law violations, school problems, substance abuse problems or other behaviors which make the child difficult to maintain in a family setting.
- b. Intensive Care Increment (\$1010/1047 per month): The child requires continuous supervision and special attention on a daily basis in accordance with recommended parenting, handling, or intervention techniques and/or ongoing treatment because of one or more of the conditions described in the minimum and moderate care sections.
- c. Therapeutic Care Increment (\$1555/1592 per month): The child requires continuous care and supervision on a daily basis, in accordance with a professional treatment or behavior management plan and would otherwise require placement in a group home or institutional setting due to emotional or behavioral problems. This plan may be initiated by a group or institution as part of a discharge plan, or designed by a treating professional. Placement planning shall include a written case plan specifying any ongoing treatment needs, anticipated modality and frequency of treatment, degree of participation required of the foster parents, agency support services, and recommendations regarding handling of the child in the home. The written case plan shall be reviewed and signed by the foster parent(s) prior to placement unless the child has been in the home and now requires special intervention to prevent disruption of the placement. One copy shall be provided to the foster parents, and one copy kept in the case record after review and approval.

If the child is not in treatment, the case plan shall document efforts to obtain appropriate diagnostic and treatment resources and explain why services are not currently appropriate or available. When the child is in treatment, documentation of diagnosis, prognosis and case management recommendations shall be obtained.

Foster parents receiving this rate shall complete an evaluation on the child on a quarterly basis, describing the child's behaviors and needs and noting any improvement or regression. Foster parents shall agree to participate in treatment or therapy on behalf of the child, transport the child to such treatment, and attend foster parent support groups as often as possible. Foster parents shall

also obtain 8 hours of education or training per year on subjects relevant to parenting such children.

II. PROCEDURE

Payment to the Foster Family Program in the amount of **\$1009/1048** per month is initiated automatically by the placement deputy using the Start Work Sheet that alerts the placement clerk to begin the AFDC-FC funding process. An assigned financial officer at the Grand Avenue Office then receives the funds and distributes the appropriate amounts (based on days minor is placed) to the foster parents. Previously, the Foster Family Program paid the Therapeutic Rate for all placed minors given their heightened need for supervision, mental health services and special requirements. **The Foster Family Program no longer forwards the full amount received by the Social Services Agency to the foster parent and retains the Social Work and Administration fees.**

REFERENCES:

Procedures:	2-6-204	Placement Information Change Notice
	2-6-206	Expenditure of Funds for Medical, Transportation, and Clothing Needs of Minors in Foster Homes and Group Homes
Policies:	A-1	Policy, Procedure and the Law
	F-2	Recommendations to the Court for Dispositions/ Sentencing and Commitments for Minors

F. Sanchez

APPROVED BY: