

Child Foster Care Respite/Substitute Care Policy for Children Currently in Licensed Foster Home

Statutory Definitions:

- **Respite Care:** Minnesota 2960.3010 Subp. 36 – “Respite Care” means temporary care of a foster care in a licensed foster home other than the foster home the child was placed in.
- **Substitute Care:** Minnesota 2960.3010 Subp. 41 – “Substitute care” means temporary care of foster children inside the foster home by someone other than the foster parent for overnight or longer.

Overnight care for children by someone other than foster provider

If overnight care of a foster care child by someone other than the foster care provider is needed, the use of respite care or substitute care is required.

Short-Term Substitute Care: Minnesota Rule 2960.3090 Subp. 3)

Less than 72 hours of continuous care for a child.

- Caregiver must come into the licensed foster home.
- Placing worker and foster parent must agree the caregiver is able to meet the needs of the child.
- If medical equipment is used by the child, caregiver must have documented training from an appropriate training source.
- Information below must be given.
- SUID/AHT training when children are 5 and under
- CARS training when children are under 9 and caregiver is transporting children.

Long-Term Substitute Care: (Minnesota Rule 2960.3090 Subp. 2)

72 or more hours of continuous care for a child

- Caregiver must come into the licensed foster home.
- Must be 18 years of Age
- Must have an approved background check in the past 12 months.
- Have no statutory or rule disqualifications
- Provide documentation of medical training if necessary
- If providing more than 30 cumulative days of care in 12 months:
 - Submit statement of good health
 - Have experience caring for children with similar needs
- Have Children’s Mental Health Training
- Have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Training
- SUID/AHT training when children are 5 and under
- CARS training when children are under 9 and caregiver is transporting children.

Information to be Provided to Substitute Caregiver

- The location of the fire extinguisher and first aid supplies
- Emergency and Fire Evacuation Plans
- Information about Child Abuse and Mandatory Reporting Laws
- Who to report in case of emergency

Respite Care (Minnesota Rule 2960.3090 Sub4)

- Any overnight care for a child outside of the foster home, must be given in another licensed foster home.
- Foster care provider must contact the licensing unit at least 14 days prior to the respite need. (longer time is desired to have adequate time to find another provider)
- If emergency respite care is needed, the foster care provider will notify the licensing unit as soon as possible.
- Information to be provided to the respite care provider:
 - Information about the foster child's emotional, behavioral, medical and physical condition
 - Any medication the child takes
 - Foster child's daily routine and schedule
 - Emergency Contact information including medical providers
- Foster care provider is responsible for paying respite care provider the daily reimbursement rate for the child. Payment is arranged between providers without the involvement of your licenser. **Payment should be provided to the respite care provider at the start of the respite period.**
- Before non-emergency respite – a face-to-face pre-placement visit must occur.

Prudent Parenting Considerations

- Substitute Care/Respite guidelines do not pertain to adults supervising overnight school, community, or cultural activities such as: sleepovers with friends and overnight club activities, extracurricular activities, community or cultural group overnights or family weekend camping or going to the lake.
- A child's case manager may allow visits to a member of the child's birth family. This needs to be a part of the child's visitation plan and approved by a case manager. The visits would not be subject to Substitute Care/Respite guidelines.
- Having a child go the home of a friend or family member to the foster provider would not pertain to Prudent Parenting. The foster provider's friend or family member would have to be licensed or provide care in the foster home, meeting standards for substitute care.