

FAQ Frequently Asked Questions about Relief

What is relief?

Relief is a short break away from care giving duties. It usually means overnight care of a foster child, but it can be any arrangement that gives a foster family a break.

Who gets relief?

Level 2 & 3 foster homes have 3 days per month relief built into their service contract. In exceptional circumstances restricted, regular, and level 1 caregivers may also get relief moneys.

The cost of relief is based on the following per day:

- Restricted or Regular (for a child aged 0 to 11 years) \$36.70
- Restricted or Regular (for a child aged 12 to 19 years) \$40.33
- Level 1 (all ages) \$55.60
- Level 2 (all ages) \$68.35
- Level 3 (all ages) \$90.89

What are my responsibilities when sending a child to overnight relief?

-Inform the child's social worker of when the child is going and who will be caring for them.

-Obtain a criminal record check from the relief caregiver, ask your worker to do a "prior contact check", and check the relief caregiver's references.

-Advise and prepare the child prior to the provision of an alternate care arrangement.

-Ensure that the person who provides relief care:

- is capable of ensuring the safety and well-being of the child
- has the maturity, knowledge, skill and ability to meet the child's needs and follow through with comprehensive plan of care responsibilities
- uses positive behavior management techniques and appropriate discipline techniques
- will be present and in charge for the period of relief care
- knows what to do in an emergency and knows how to contact you and the child's social worker

- has no criminal record that would affect the care, safety and well-being of the child
- understands the importance of confidentiality
- agrees to write a daily log and document any medications
- are also informed of
 - the caregiver's obligations and responsibilities as outlined in the caregiver's written agreement with the director
 - *Standards for Foster Homes*
 - *The Foster Family Handbook*
 - the rights of children and youth in care

How do I find someone to do relief?

- You may wish to use someone you and the child already know.
- Your resource worker(MCFD) or analyst (CLBC) may recommend another foster parent
- Ask other foster parents who they recommend.
- Your Foster Parent Coordinator may be able to assist

Can I use a relative or friend to do relief?

Yes - but it is your responsibility to make sure they meet requirements and the child's social worker must approve the arrangement.

How much do I pay a relief caregiver?

The amount you pay is a private arrangement between you and the relief caregiver.

Important: Make sure you agree ahead of time, and put in writing, the amount you will pay and whether you will pay by the day or for a 24 hour period. Also, agree ahead of time what time the child will be dropped off and when he will be picked up. Be sure to obtain a receipt for money paid.

What if I trade relief with another foster parent?

If you trade relief you should still get a receipt for your records for the amount you would pay if money were exchanged.

What if extra relief is needed per month?

In exceptional situations, if you need more relief than the three days provided, talk to your Resource Worker or Analyst. You will need pre-

approval for any extra paid relief, and must ensure you provide your Worker with copies of your receipts.

Is my relief caregiver covered by the BCFFPA insurance rider?

No. If their insurance carrier is unwilling to cover damage, your relief caregiver would have to sue you, in which case you might be covered by the insurance rider.