

# FAQ

## Frequently Asked Questions about Alternate Care



### What is "Alternate Care"?

When a Foster Parent allows someone else to look after a child in care, it is considered "Alternate Care". This includes babysitting, the child visiting overnight in another home, and relief care. As a Foster Parent, you have a responsibility to make sure that the Alternate Caregiver has the necessary maturity, knowledge, skills, and abilities to look after the child

**What are my responsibilities?** There are different requirements for each kind of alternate care. You must ensure the following criteria are met for the three types of "Alternate Care".

<b>Child Minding:</b> day time care, Foster Parent available	<b>Overnight Arrangements:</b> Foster Parent reasonably available	<b>Relief Care:</b> Foster Parent not accessible
<b>Caregiver is</b>	<b>Caregiver is</b>	<b>Caregiver is</b>
Mature, Knowledgeable, Skilled	Mature, Knowledgeable, Skilled	Mature, Knowledgeable, Skilled
Will use positive behavior management and appropriate discipline	Will use positive behavior management and appropriate discipline	Will use positive behavior management and appropriate discipline
Will follow through with child caring routines	Will follow through with child caring routines	Will follow through with child caring routines
Present and in Charge	Present and in Charge	Present and in Charge
Understand confidentiality	Understand confidentiality	Understand confidentiality
Know what to do in an emergency & how to contact the child's social worker	Know what to do in an emergency & how to contact the child's social worker	Know what to do in an emergency & how to contact the child's social worker
	Social worker satisfied re: choice of caregiver, safety of child. May require a criminal record check.	Social worker satisfied re: choice of caregiver, safety of child
		Criminal Record Check required and Prior Contact with MCFD checked

**What is my responsibility to the child?**

You must ensure that the child:

- is advised and prepared for all alternate caregiving arrangements
- knows what to do in the event of an emergency and how to contact their social worker
- receives care that is consistent with that provided by their Foster Parent

**Must I notify the child's social worker?**

Yes! You must notify the child's social worker before making plans, not previously authorized, for a child to be cared for overnight.

You must also keep written records which document that alternate care requirements are met, including social worker approval.

**Can a child attend Day Care?**

A child may attend day-care, if it is part of a child's Plan of Care. There is an 80% subsidy available. Talk to the social worker about how to apply for this.

Whenever possible, children should attend licensed child-care facilities. If none are available and a family day home is to be used, you and the social worker are responsible for screening and monitoring the facility.

**Can I hire the teen Foster Child in my home to baby-sit?**

It is strongly recommended that you do not. You must get social worker permission to have a child in care baby-sit in your home.