

S-206 STATUTORY VISITS WITH CHILDREN IN CARE-MODIFIED



Version 3 effective March 31, 2008 (modified April 1 2019)

(previously SE-07)

Policy

Valoris must carefully monitor the quality of the care provided to the children entrusted to its care.

A child's welfare worker must meet with him privately within **7 days** and then within **30 days** following his placement in a foster family or another residential resource. Then, he must meet with the child at least once within **90 days following a placement**. He must also meet with the foster parents during those statutory visits.

Obviously, those are **minimum** requirements. Child Welfare Workers are encouraged to visit placed children and their foster parents more frequently - at least once a month. The frequency of visits to a child shall depend on the duration and stability of his placement in a foster family, his needs and the needs of the foster family.

Procedure

1. Private visits with children and their foster parents

The purpose of those private meetings is to allow the child to express his concerns, impressions and needs. The child's welfare worker is responsible for checking the quality of the care provided by the foster family during his private visits.

2. Children with communication difficulties

Some children and youths may have difficulty communicating, understanding or making themselves understood because of their age, a handicap or a mental deficiency. Since those children are particularly vulnerable, their Child Welfare Workers must make all reasonable efforts to meet with them privately to verify the quality of care they are receiving.

The Child Welfare Worker may also call upon specialists such as a person who knows sign language in the case of a deaf child or a child with a severe auditory limitation.

Despite all those efforts, a severely handicapped child might not be able to communicate. In those exceptional situations, a supervisor might decide that it is neither possible nor useful to visit the child privately. However, the Child Welfare Worker must make statutory visits to the child and his foster family. The quality of the care provided by the foster parents might be checked by consulting with other people working with the child.

3. Documentation

The Child Welfare Worker must write the date and a description of statutory and private visits in the worker's **contact register**, marking PV (private visit). Such contacts must be clearly identified in the statutory reports to facilitate identification of those mandatory visits when children's files are reviewed by the Ministry.

If a child or youth refuses to meet privately or could not be met privately during a statutory visit because of his age or a physical or mental handicap, the Child Welfare Worker must document that fact in his file.

4. Failure to meet with a child

A Child Welfare Worker who could not meet a child within the 7, 30 or 90-days after placement deadlines set must advise a supervisor on those deadlines or as soon as he becomes aware of his failure to meet with the child. The supervisor may ask another Child Welfare Worker to visit the child on that same day.

The failure to meet the child, its justification and the discussion with the supervisor must be documented and countersigned by the supervisor who was advised of the failure.

Child Welfare Workers who fail to make a statutory visit to a placed child may be subject to disciplinary measures.

5. Annual interview by Ministry representatives

Ministry personnel must meet a certain of children placed in foster homes privately each year. Agency personnel must cooperate and facilitate those private meetings.

Definitions

Parents: Includes biological parents, adoptive parents, step-mother, step-father or all other persons responsible for the child previous to Valoris' involvement.

References

- [Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017](#)
- [Ontario Regulation 156/18: General Matters Under the Authority of the Minister](#)