

S-202 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHILDREN IN VALORIS CARE MODIFIED



Version 3 effective July, 2015 (modified April 1 2019)

(previously SE-02)

Policy

All children admitted to Valoris' care must be informed of their rights and responsibilities and of the procedure for filing complaints at the time of their admission and this must be reviewed within 30 days of their placement and then once every 6 months. If a child is removed from a foster family, the child's service provider must review his rights and responsibilities with him since significant changes might have occurred.

The child's service provider must review the manual with him in a manner that is appropriate to his age, his development and his particular needs.

Before placement or no later than seven days after placement, the family's service provider must inform parents who have access to their child of his rights and responsibilities during his placement and of the procedure for filing complaints.

The child's service provider gives the child and the child's parent an opportunity to appoint a resource person who, on a voluntary basis, helps the service provider to take into account the child's identity characteristics or regional differences when he or she makes a decision that affects the interests of the child; and in the case of an Inuit, Métis or First Nations child, help the service provider take into account the child's culture, heritage and traditions, the bonds that bind him to the community, and the concept of extended family with respect to any aspect of child and family service.

Each foster parent and service provider supervising and supporting a foster parent receives direction regarding policies and procedures that affect children in care and foster care.

Procedure

1. Manual: Rights and Responsibilities of Children While in the Care of a Children's Aid Society.

The service provider must provide the manual *Rights and Responsibilities of Children While in the Care of a Children's Aid Society* to children aged seven or older and who know how to read on the day of their admission or during their day-7 visit and he must review it with them. Within 30 days of a child's/youth's placement, the service provider must review the manual by reading it to him and discussing it with him, ensuring that he clearly understands his rights and responsibilities. Those rights and responsibilities must also

be reviewed with the child/youth, **three months after admission, 6 months after admission and** once every 6 months or when he moves.

The service provider shall explain their rights and responsibilities to younger children in words they can understand, taking their level of maturity and understanding into account.

2. Children and youth living in external resources (group homes)

Even if a child/youth is living in an external resource, his Valoris service provider is responsible for reviewing his rights and responsibilities with him at the required intervals.

3. Children with special needs and children under seven

When it is not possible to inform a child who is too young or has a mental or physical handicap, the service provider must review his rights and responsibilities with his foster parents and document this in his file.

4. Identity characteristics

From the first contact in the initial process of the service offer; when making an important decision affecting a service provided to the child; or when the child or parent of the child becomes aware of new information about a characteristic of the child that the child did not know or that a child's identifying characteristic may have changed; employees working with a child and their family are expected to take into account these characteristics of the child's identity and regional differences. For an Inuit, Métis or First Nations child, we take into account the child's culture, heritage and traditions, the bonds that bind him to the community, and the concept of the extended family.

The service provider informs the child and the parents of the child of this obligation. The child and the parents of the child are asked what information to consider when making decisions, and how the child and the parent of the child want to consider the information. The child and the parents are told that they can provide additional information at any time.

If the child or the parent of the child shares new information concerning the identity characteristics, it must be taken into account and recorded in the file.

If the child cannot communicate to the caregiver information that he or she wishes to be taken into account and there is no parent, service provider makes a reasonable effort to determine whether any of this information is otherwise available from the following sources:

- child's CPIN file
- another organization that has referred the child to our services
- a relative or brother or sister of the child who can be expected to have this information, if that person knows that the child is receiving the service provided by Valoris.

5. Resource person

As soon as possible, service provider communicates with the resource person to give information on the types of potential decisions that he or she expects to make with

respect to the child and that may affect the child's interests. . The service provider receives the information that the resource person wishes to provide and the resource person is available to the resource person when needed. The service provider determines in collaboration with this person the times, places and means used to communicate.

If the child or parent of the child indicates that he or she no longer wishes the resource person to receive information or if a person named as a resource person refuses to act or continue to act as resource person, the service provider stops contacting the resource person and asks the child or parent who appointed the resource person if he or she wishes to name another resource person.

6. Documentation

Each review of a child's rights and responsibilities with him and/or his foster parents must be well documented in his Plan of Care, indicating the date of the review.

7. Training of Foster parents and service providers

The foster parent receives guidance on policies and procedures that affect children in care and foster families before placing a child in foster care and every year thereafter. For the foster parent, this signed certificate is in the RIPE CPIN file.

The service provider receives guidance on the policies and procedures that affect children in care and foster care before starting monitoring and support functions, and annually thereafter. For the employee, a signed certificate is recorded in employee file.

References

- Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017
- Regulation 155 on General Matters Under the Authority of the Lieutenant Governor in Council
- Regulation 156 on General Matters Under the Authority of the Minister
- Licensing Manual for Foster Homes, 2012 edition, CFSA
- S-106: Complaints from Children in care in foster homes or elsewhere
- S-105: Complaints from Clients
- S-107: Reports of Abuse of a Child or an Adult by Employees, Volunteers or other agents of Valoris