

# **S-254 BASIC AND ONGOING TRAINING TO FOSTER PARENTS-MODIFIED**



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**Version 5 effective October 20, 2008 (modified on April 1 2019)**

(previously FA-06)

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## **Policy**

All candidates interested in becoming a regular foster parent must complete the basic training program prior to being accepted as a foster family and the placement of a child in their care.

Basic training is one element of the evaluation process of candidates. This training allows the Agency to evaluate and prepare future foster parents; at the same time, candidates gain a better understanding of their role and the expectations of the Agency prior to making a commitment. Mandatory participation in this training does not constitute an obligation on behalf of the participants nor does it oblige the Agency to accept the candidates.

Each year, the Agency offers foster families a wide range of opportunities for development and training. On-going foster parent training allows them to develop and perfect their parenting skills. In addition, this training improves foster home stability and helps retain foster families.

Annually, the Agency recognizes the number of training hours that regular foster parents have attended, during the annual assessment of their placement on the per diem chart.

**The Foster Care Agreement specifies the support services and training that the licensee will provide to the foster parent (s) during the placement of the child.**

**Foster Parents who participate in the service offer of an Inuit, Métis or First Nations child receives training on identity characteristics, regional differences and cultures, heritage, traditions, community ties and the extended family concept that is specific to Inuit, Métis and First Nations. This training is offered within eight (8) months of the decision making process involving the child.**

## **Procedure**

### **1. Basic Training**

Basic training is offered once there are a sufficient number of participants (12 participants). Candidates may choose to attend the training in the language of their choice (French or English). The candidates must attend basic training. Children, adolescents, and boarders in the candidates' home are also invited to participate. The cost of the mandatory basic training for participants is non-refundable.

Topics are covered via demonstrations, role play, articles, group discussions and first-hand accounts by invited guests. The program's content is reviewed annually and updated as needed.

At the beginning of the training session, participants will be given a manual of policies and procedures governing the care that a foster family must provide to a child.

Foster parents will assist the speakers during the training session. Once the candidates have graduated, representatives from Prescott-Russell's Foster Parents Association are invited to explain the role of their association to new foster parents.

A certificate of participation for basic training will be provided to the participants, and a copy will be kept on file.

## **2. Other Participants**

Foster parents who are reopening their home, those who have been transferred to our region, those who have a new spouse and others may be invited to the basic training. However, participation in basic training may be required of some foster parents.

## **3. Ongoing Training**

Foster parents must attend the "*Looking After Children*" training module during their first year of care in order to progress on the chart. A Residential Services Supervisor may deem certain families exempt from this training. The agency prepares an annual calendar of complementary training offered to foster parents and their children. The topics covered in this training will vary according to the needs identified by foster parents and Agency staff.

The Agency also encourages foster parents to attend workshops, conferences and courses offered by other community organizations.

The Agency will reimburse the cost of registration and provide a mileage cost and babysitting fees for foster parents to attend training sessions that have been pre-approved by the family's worker.

Staff members and adoptive parents may also be invited to attend supplemental training sessions.

During the annual review of the compensation rate for regular foster parents, the Residential Services Sector will calculate the number of training hours attended by each member of the foster family; these training credits are tabulated as outlined in Policy S-210: Board Rates and Refund of Expenses to Foster Parents.

## **Definitions**

**Parents** : The term "parents" includes biological and adoptive parents, stepfathers, stepmothers and any other person who is responsible for a child before Valoris intervenes.

## **References**

- [Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017](#)

- **Ontario Regulation 156 on General Matters Under the Authority of the Minister**
- S-210: Board Rates and Refund of Expenses to Foster Parents;