

# S-215 TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL FOR CHILDREN IN PLACEMENT



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## Policy

Valoris encourages foster parents to include placed children in their travel plans. In certain cases, the foster parents may request financial compensation for additional expenses incurred during such travel (see Policy F-210:Board Ratwes and Refund of Expenses to Foster Parents).

Foster parents must advise a child's welfare worker if they plan to travel outside the province within a radius of 300 km or outside the country.

## Procedure

### 1. Travel within Ontario

Foster parents must advise a child's welfare worker when a child plans to travel more than 300 km from home, even if he remains within the province.

### 2. Travel outside Ontario

Foster parents must consult the Child Welfare Worker before planning any travel outside the province or to another country.

The child's welfare worker must inform the Local Director of Valoris as soon as he is informed that a placed child will be travelling outside the province or the country.

Foster parents must ensure that they have the child's birth certificate or a valid passport and an official letter signed by the Local Director of Valoris identifying them as foster parents, authorizing them to travel with the child for an approximate period of time and authorizing them to consent to medical treatment in case of emergency with them. They must have checked and complied with immigration requirements concerning immunization, visas, etc. for the country visited.

Foster parents must take the child's health insurance card with them whenever they travel. They must obtain private medical insurance in the name of any child who will be travelling to another country. Insurance costs will be reimbursed by the Agency.

The Child Welfare Worker must prepare the passport application for any child who is a child (or youth) in extended care of Valoris. In the case of a child (or youth) in interim care of Valoris a temporary care agreement, the parents must give their consent before a passport is obtained for their child.

### 3. Voluntary placement

When a child is placed with the consent of his parents, the Child Welfare Worker must inform them when the child will be travelling outside Ontario within a radius of 300 km or outside the country and obtain their consent. The Child Welfare Worker must document his actions in his intervention notes.

The parents must sign a letter authorizing the child to travel with his foster parents outside the province and consent to the foster parents authorizing medical care in cases of emergency.

**4. Destination of the foster parents**

The foster parents must leave contact information for their destination, their car licence number and the name of a person who can contact them if there is a need to communicate with them.

**5. Children travelling alone**

In consultation with the foster parents, the Child Welfare Worker must carefully assess a child's/youth's maturity and ability to travel alone. All precautions must be taken to ensure the child's safety. It must be clearly established who will meet the child upon his arrival and who will be responsible for his return.

The foster parents or the Child Welfare Worker must check whether a child who is travelling alone to his family's home or the home of friends has arrived safely.

**Definitions**

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

**References**

- F-210 Board Rates and Refund of Foster Parents' Expenses.