

S-484 RELIEF SERVICES FOR HOME SHARING RESOURCES



Version 2 effective November 19, 2009

(previously RF-20)

Policy

Preamble

Continuity of care is essential for adults residing in home sharing resources. The best way to ensure a successful placement is to provide adequate support and relief services to home sharers.

The tolerance of home sharers and their family members toward difficult behaviour can vary and may change given different circumstances. It is important to examine the needs of home sharers with relation to each adult.

Policy

Valoris must offer a regular and emergency relief service that is adapted to the needs of both the home sharers and the adults in care. This service aims to ensure the continuity of care to the adults under the Home Share program.

Procedure

1. Relief services are planned in conjunction with home sharers in order to help them satisfy the needs of the adults in their care.

During the development or review of an adult's plan of care, the worker and the home sharers will determine the form, frequency, conditions and duration of relief services required.

Relief services may be offered within or outside of the home sharing resource and must meet the needs of the adult and home sharers alike.

Where possible, the individual providing relief services should be known to the adult. If the adult receives relief services from other home sharers, a pre-placement visit must be arranged to allow the adult to meet them. The adult should receive relief care from the same home sharers in order to ensure continuity.

It is preferable to utilize informal care providers (natural family, home sharers' extended family, homecare provider, etc.) prior to using official services (Home Share Program, etc.).

Regular relief services may include:

- Arranging a visit for the adult with the natural or extended family;

- Arranging for supervision in the home sharers' residence by a trusted individual, extended family or friends of home sharers;
- Registering the adult in community programs;
- Placing the adult for a day or a weekend in another home sharing resource;
- Seeking assistance from community integration counsellors or health professionals;
- Referring the adult to employment services.

2. Steps to follow

Home sharers must advise the adult's worker as quickly as possible and within five days of the need for assistance from other home sharers. A worker will identify a relief home for the adult in order to ensure the best possible matching between for the parties involved.

If relief services are offered by individuals other than home sharers for a period of more than seven days, such as family or friends of the home sharers, the worker must complete an abridged assessment in order to ensure that it is a safe place.

Valoris trusts home sharers to choose the person offering respite for the adult in their care. In making this choice, home sharers must consider the age, maturity, sex and capabilities of the person offering relief, as well as the adult's individual needs. Home sharers may only reveal information to the person offering relief that is directly related to the supervision and care of the adult. Confidentiality concerning the adult's natural family or other information is of the utmost importance. Home sharers must provide the person offering relief with a contact phone number in case of emergency, as well as the Agency's phone number and the 24/7 Emergency Service number. Home sharers must inform the person offering relief of the procedure to follow when administering medication to the adult. Home sharers must also advise the person offering relief that the use of subversive measures is forbidden. Compensation will be established with the adult's worker in advance.

At no time during their relief period will home sharers requesting relief services be permitted to provide relief services to other home sharers.

Home sharers who provide relief services must respect all of the Agency's requirements and policies.

3. Emergency Relief Services

In the event of an emergency, home sharers requiring assistance must contact the adult's worker to arrange for services appropriate to the circumstances.

In the absence of the adult's worker, an on-duty worker is available to respond to emergency calls from home sharers.

Outside of office hours, home sharers can call the 24/7 Emergency Service and an on-duty worker will contact them.

4. Reimbursements / compensation

4.1 Relief Services from other home sharers

Home sharers are allowed 36 sleep-overs of relief per year from other home sharers, at 100% compensation. After these, the compensation will be withdrawn. These relief days are not cumulative from one year to the next.

When an adult receives relief care from other home sharers throughout the year, the relief days are pro-rated at 3 sleep-overs per month.

Definitions

Home sharers : A family consisting of one or more persons in which a service agency places a person with an intellectual disability who has no relationship with this family, so that this person resides there and receives care, support and supervision for which the home sharers will be paid by the service agency.