

S-250 PLACEMENT IN A FOSTER HOME



In this document, the non implicit gender applies to both men and women.

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(previously FA-01)

Policy

When a child must be removed from his/her parents and the extended family is unable to take the child in, Valoris firmly believes that it is in the child's best interest to be placed in a foster home in his/her community, irrespective of the child's history, needs, difficulties or age. The Agency has favoured such alternate living arrangements and takes all necessary measures to avoid group homes or institutions. As such, the Agency recognizes the importance of offering foster families a wide range of training, support, compensation, relief and recognition

Valoris considers foster parents to be full partners in the intervention team for the child they are taking into care. As such, they have access to all information relating to their role and the right to participate in decisions that affect the child or themselves. Foster parents must feel and be recognized by staff first and foremost as individuals who have a determining influence on the child. Our practices and attitudes towards foster parents must encourage their continued commitment to this project.

Valoris consults, performs and participates in studies that identify best practices for parenting. The Agency seeks foster parents who practice positive parenting techniques, such as playing and laughing with children, reading to young children, accompanying children to extracurricular activities, encouraging them to develop their talents and skills, providing a consistent and democratic framework, and encouraging academic success. As such, these parents can help children realize their full potential.

The Agency believes that a kinship-kithship foster family is the preferred alternative for children who must be separated from their families. We must take into consideration the following:

- his sense of belonging to a community;
- the region where he resides;
- his socioeconomic, cultural, social, linguistic and religious community;
- his emotional, social, physical and intellectual needs;
- grounds for the placement;
- share the appropriate information to the Welfare Worker at the Residential Services Intake to ensure a good match in the identification of a residential resource;
- the expected length of placement;
- the child's legal status;
- the child's age and level of development

This type of foster family also has access to Agency support and training.

Valoris approves a wide variety of foster families in order to match the child's needs to the foster family's personality and capabilities.

The Agency avoids asking foster families to care for more than two children, as excessive responsibilities can often have disastrous consequences, such as a placement disruption or the loss of a valued foster family. Nonetheless, we believe that it is important to place children from the same family together and in such instances, we ensure that foster families receive the necessary support.

The Agency assumes the role of trainer for foster parents in order to ensure that they develop the abilities and receive the necessary support to provide proper care for the children. Staff members also require basic training in order to better understand the roles, needs and rights of foster families, in order to effectively share their knowledge with them.

Although foster parents directly provide all care for children in placement, Valoris assumes the ultimate responsibility for the child's care through its role as corporate parent. It may occur that foster parents have complaints or that complaints are made about the care provided by foster parents. The Agency is responsible for investigating such complaints in an expedient and objective manner, while at the same time offering its support and the services of a communicator. Valoris employees and foster parents must try to solve a complaint made by foster parents. If they do not succeed to solve the complaint in an unofficial manner, the foster parents are informed of the procedure to formally lodge their complaint in accordance with policy and procedure S-105 : Complaints from Clients.

Although foster parents may occasionally disagree with decisions made by the Agency, they must feel that they are being heard; staff members must deal with the foster parents' dissatisfaction and any points of contention as they arise.

Valoris recognizes Prescott-Russell's Foster Parents Association as an official organization whose mandate is to represent the rights and needs of children in care, as well as those of foster parents. This organization receives our firm support and is consulted during the revision or implementation of policies and procedures that concern them.

These values, which are well anchored within our procedures, aim to develop a solid working partnership between foster parents and Valoris, in order to ensure the highest quality of care for children throughout their placement.

Definitions, annexes and references

Definition

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 and Family Services Act;
- “Foster Care Licensing – Care provided by foster families”, Ministry of Community and Social Services;
- Looking after Children (provincial research);
- National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY);
- S-114: Complaints from Foster Parents about Services;
- S-105: Complaints from Clients.