

# S-265 FOSTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION



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

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**Version 3 effective October 20, 2008**

(previously FA-23)

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## **Policy**

Valoris for Children and Adults of Prescott-Russell recognize and encourage Prescott-Russell's Foster Parents Association and its affiliation with the Ontario Foster Parents Association.

A Residential Services Supervisor acts as official liaison between the Agency and Prescott-Russell's Foster Parents Association.

## **Procedure**

### **1. Liaison**

The Supervisor or a delegate will attend all monthly meetings of the Association's Executive Committee as well as other meetings upon invitation (CAPS, support group).

The Liaison Supervisor shall:

- Provide the Association's Executive Committee with an updated network of approved foster families on a monthly basis;
- Respond to questions and general requests from foster parents and ensure the appropriate follow-up;
- Act as mediator in situations of potential conflict;
- Encourage Agency staff to attend activities organized by or for foster parents (foster parents annual meeting, annual picnic, foster parents banquet, etc.);
- Consult with the Executive Committee prior to developing or while reviewing policies, guidelines and procedures concerning foster parents and/or children in care;
- Organize quarterly meetings with communicators;
- Offer technical support to foster parents organizing the Association's activities.

### **2. Correspondence for the Association**

The Agency will assist with the distribution of the Foster Parents Association newsletter and any other correspondence via its regular mailing to foster families.

### **3. Budget**

The Board of Directors will approve an annual budget for the Foster Parents Association (conferences, activities, Christmas gifts for foster children). This budget is managed independently by the Foster Parents Association.

Upon their approval, all foster parents automatically become members of Prescott-Russell's Foster Parents Association. Valoris for Children and Adults of Prescott-Russell pay membership fees of the Ontario Association of Foster Parents for all foster parents.

**4. Basic Training for New Foster Parents**

Representatives from the Foster Parents Association are invited to meet with all new foster parents and present their role within the Association. The Agency encourages foster parents to participate in the Association's activities and to take advantage of the services and support available to them.

**5. Mentoring Program for New Foster Parents**

The Agency supports and takes part in activities for the mentoring program that was created to support new foster parents and their children in their new role. A Residential Services Supervisor will facilitate training sessions offered to the mentors.

**6. Legal fund**

The Agency contributes to a legal fund created to help foster parents pay for legal services if there is a risk of or in the event of a lawsuit.

**7. Communicator**

The Agency recognizes the importance of experienced foster parents assigned by the Foster Parents Association to act as communicators in delicate situations or conflicts between foster parents and Valoris Children and Adults of Prescott-Russell.

Foster parents may obtain the support of a communicator in various situations (investigation of a complaint by or against a foster parent, conflict with Agency staff, disagreement with an Agency decision). A foster parent or Agency staff member may request that a communicator attend one or several meetings between staff and foster parents.

**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

**Reference**

- Prescott-Russell's Foster Parents Association Constitution