

# S-210 PERSONAL APPEARANCE



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

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**Version 2 effective March 31, 2008**

(previously SE-11)

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## **Policy**

In the past, the daily experiences and living conditions of placed children were often significantly worse than those of other children in the community. Our services must first recognize those disadvantages and deprivations and attempt to compensate them to lessen their negative impacts. We believe that positive compensation must be made - i.e., we must do more than provide basic and typical care to placed children.

The simple fact of being placed under Valoris' care or being a ward of the Crown implies a certain amount of stigmatism and may lead to higher risk of rejection, discontinuity, bullying and violence in the daily lives of placed children.

It is very important to improve children's daily living conditions and experiences, particularly the social presentation of the children under our care. They must be well clothed and clean and learn good manners. A child's positive social presentation greatly favours his integration into society.

## **Procedure**

### **1. Clothing**

Foster parents must ensure that placed children have enough nice clothes appropriate to his size, age and activities, the weather and the foster family's and the community's standards. The Child Welfare Worker shall be responsible for preparing an inventory of the child's clothing. When a child comes to live with a foster family, his Child Welfare Worker may delegate the task of inventorying his clothing to the foster parent.

Children/youths must look good and they must like their clothing. They must be able to store their clothing in a bureau or drawers in their room.

Foster parents must guide children in their daily choices and the purchase of clothes based on their needs, their positive social presentation and the quality and cleanliness of clothes, their style preferences and the foster family's clothing standards. Foster parents must encourage teenagers to choose and/or buy their own clothes.

### **2. Personal hygiene**

Foster parents must ensure that children are clean and have personal toiletry items suited to their stage of development. The child must have a positive self-image at all times.

### **3. Social skills**

Foster parents must favour the development of social skills appropriate to children's ages and environments. They must teach them good manners and the rules of polite society.

## **Definitions, annexes and references**

### **Definition**

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

### **References**

- S-201: Admission and moving of children;
- F-210: Board rates and reimbursement of foster parents' expenses.