

# S-257 BRIEF ASSESSMENT OF A FOSTER FAMILY



*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-09)

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## **Policy**

An abbreviated assessment of foster families is required in certain instances, such as the reopening of a regular foster home, a foster family that has moved into our territory, the arrival of a new partner of a foster parent or a foster home opened by another residential setting for children and youth license provider.

These foster families must meet the requirements of the Ministry and the Agency prior to the placement of a child in care or within 60 days of the receipt of information when they already have a child in their care.

## **Procedure**

### **1. Abbreviated Assessment**

The Supervisor and the Resource worker review the foster family's file and determine what aspects of the initial assessment must be reviewed.

Regardless of the reason for the abbreviated assessment, the worker must perform the following, as required:

- Ensure that the residence or any renovations made to the residence meet with safety standards;
- Meet with all members of the foster family at least once to review the requirements of the assessment of a foster family (refer to Policy and Procedure FA-07 Assessment of a Potential Foster Family);
- Assess any relevant incident that may justify the closure of a foster home;
- Introduce new foster parents to the Agency's policies and procedures;
- Obtain new personal and medical references;
- Request that parents or partner re-attend the basic training program or certain sessions, at which time they will receive a new manual of policies and procedures for foster care;
- Obtain an up-to-date criminal record verification for all adults living in or frequently visiting the residence;
- Complete a home safety checklist.

### **2. Reopening a foster home**

When a foster home has been closed for a period of more than five years, the worker must redo the complete assessment.

**3. Relocation or transfer from another territory**

With the foster parents' written consent, the worker will obtain a copy of the completed assessment by the Agency that approved them as well as copies of their annual reassessments. The Supervisor and the worker will review the assessment and determine the aspects to be reviewed.

The foster parents must attend the basic training program if they have not already done so, or attend certain sessions to allow them to become familiar with the services' philosophy as well as the expectations of Valoris.

**4. Documentation**

As is the case with assessments of regular foster families, the abbreviated assessment of a foster family including all required documents must be completed within 60 days.

**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.

**Annex**

- Brief Assessment of a Foster Family

**References**

- S-255 : Assessment of a Potential Foster Family;
- Ministry of Children and Youth Services requirements:  
Licensed residential settings policy requirement 2008-3:  
Guidelines amending the criminal reference check policy to include police record checks, August 2008  
Section 6.3 (1) of the Criminal Files Act.