

# **S-219 LIMITED USE OF EXTERNAL RESIDENTIAL RESOURCES**



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

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(previously SE-21)

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## **Policy**

When a child must be removed from his parents, Valoris for Children and Adults of Prescott-Russell firmly believes that, whatever his history, needs, difficulties or age, it is in his best interest to live with a foster family in his community. Historically, the Agency has given priority to this substitute residential environment and takes all means possible to avoid using group homes or institutions. Thus, the Agency recognizes the importance of giving foster families a full range of training, support, fair compensation, backup and recognition.

All placements in residential resources, including in foster families outside the foster families network managed by Valoris, must be approved in advance by the Director of Service.

If Valoris is unable to identify a foster family managed by the Agency, staff shall take steps to identify, firstly, another private foster family or one managed by an organization in our community, and secondly one outside the community.

All external residential resources must be approved by the Ministry for child placement and must have a valid operating licence.

## **Procedure**

### **1. Application**

The supervisor of the Residential Services Sector, which is responsible for the child in question, shall make application for external placement if he is unable to find one within our network. He shall call a case conference where he must show that he has made all efforts to identify a Valoris foster family or to provide support to families that might accept the child. The director of Service must be invited to participate in the case conference.

### **2. Approval of external placements**

The Director of Service must approve any decision to place a child in an external resource approved by the Ministry and the daily compensation (per diem) requested by the resource.

The supervisor responsible for residential services must write up an agreement between the Agency and the resource. This agreement shall specify the daily

compensation (per diem) requested the care to be provided to the child and the expected duration of the placement.

**3. Documentation**

The minutes of the case conference shall be signed by the Director of Service and placed in the child's file to document the decision and expenses.

The placement notice must be forwarded to the person responsible for board payments.

**4. Placement**

The child's welfare worker must visit and meet the people responsible for the external resource before he is placed. The same placement procedure must be followed as for placement with a foster family.

The child's welfare worker shall be responsible for providing any information requested to the resource in accordance with its admission criteria.

**5. External placement review**

A child's external placement must be reviewed at the same time as his plan of care. Efforts must be made to place the child with a Valoris foster family as soon as possible.

**6. Assessment and supervision of external resources**

Since PRSCA rarely uses external residential resources, they have an agreement with the Ottawa Children's Aid Society under which they provide us with assessments and annual assessments of the resource in accordance with Ministry requirements for resources of this type. Of course, the supervisor responsible for residential services must obtain the written permission of the external resource before receiving this information.

If the Ottawa CAS or another CAS does not have a file on the resource used, the supervisor shall assess the resource in accordance with Ministry rules before placing the child.

**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.