

S-203 SHARING INFORMATION WITH FOSTER FAMILIES CONCERNING CHILDREN IN CARE



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

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(previously SE-04)

Policy

The Agency considers foster families as full partners in the delivery of care and services to placed children. Staff must share the reasons for the admission (abuse, neglect, rejection) or moving of children with the foster parents. It is essential to share all pertinent information concerning children placed in their care.

During placement, information must be shared freely by both parties.

Foster parents shall agree to respect the confidentiality of known information concerning the children placed with them and their family. Failure to meet this commitment is serious and might result in the foster family being closed.

Procedure

1. Search for a potential foster family

During the foster family search, a Resource Worker may share non-identifying information concerning a child and his family or origin with the foster family unless the child is already known to that family.

The Child Welfare Worker must provide them with all available information allowing them to make an informed decision.

2. Placement of children with foster families

Once foster parents have agreed to accept a child, they are entitled to receive all information deemed necessary for them to take care of him. They shall not have access to identifying information concerning any third party unless that information might have an impact on the child placed with them or on their family's privacy and safety.

3. Sharing information with children in the foster family

The Agency cannot expect the same obligation of confidentiality from children, particularly younger children, in the foster family. The Agency encourages foster parents to remind their children of the importance of confidentiality. They must show prudence and good judgement when sharing information with their children.

4. Sharing information with members of the extended family and neighbours

The Agency encourages foster parents to include placed children in their family and community activities. However, they must take care concerning respect of confidentiality. They must be particularly careful concerning the identification of a child's family of origin or third parties involved in his life.

Definitions, annexes and references

Definitions

Confidential information:

- All information concerning clients and their families that might lead to their identification;
- All information confirming or denying that a person is receiving or has received services from the Agency;
- All file contents in paper or electronic form, photos and audio and video recordings;
- All information concerning the Agency's administration;
- All personal information concerning employees, foster parents, family-type resources and trainees.

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

References

- *Foster Care Licensing Manual*, Ministry of Community and Social Services, 1999:
0202-08: Providing Information about Children's Previous Abuse to Foster parents.
- S-103: Confidentiality