

## Alternative Care Arrangements and Drop-In Respite Care for Children in Custody

### SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

<p><b>ORC:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>OAC:</b> 5101:2-7-08; 5101:2-48-10; 5101:2-7-02</p> <p><b>USC:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>CFR:</b> N/A</p>	<p><b>ORIGINAL:</b> 9/05/18</p> <p><b>REVISIONS:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>RELATED FORM(S):</b> SCCS Caregiver Agreement for Discipline, Care, Time Out and Prohibition of Seclusion and Restraint Form; Alternative Care Arrangements Caregiver Restrictions List</p> <p><b>RELATED PROCEDURE/POLICY(IES):</b> Caregiver Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard</p>
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative<br><input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources<br><input type="checkbox"/> Information Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Safety & Security<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Services - All Departments<br><input type="checkbox"/> Social Services - Foster & Adoption |
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All Staff       Bargaining Unit       Non-Bargaining       Management

#### **POLICY:**

Summit County Children Services (SCCS) caregivers may need to utilize alternative caregivers for the children placed in their home. SCCS does not provide funding for alternative care arrangements. Caregivers are expected to utilize funds provided through the board rate for payment.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

SCCS caregivers are responsible for the full time care of children placed in their home. This does not prohibit them from arranging alternative care. SCCS defines alternative caregivers as those persons who can provide primary childcare when the caregiver is unavailable.

Alternative caregiving arrangements shall be approved by SCCS. Caregivers are responsible for notifying SCCS for any overnight care plans with approved alternative caregivers.

The approval process will include a local police check, a child abuse and neglect clearing, and a signed discipline policy statement. SCCS will not approve caregivers convicted of an offense in OAC 5101:2-48-10 or 5101:2-7-02 or caregivers who have been identified as perpetrator in an indicated or substantiated case of child abuse or neglect.

Approved alternative caregivers and/or babysitters must be at least sixteen (16) years of age and at least five (5) years older than the oldest child left in his or her care. Alternative caregivers and/or babysitters between the ages of sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) may be approved for up to four (4) hours of care. All childcare arrangements beyond four (4) hours provided by an alternative caregiver and/or babysitter ages sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) must be approved by the assigned caseworker. Caregivers approved for overnight childcare must be at least twenty one (21) years of age.

SCCS will only assist with overnight alternative care arrangements in emergency situations. All emergency requests will be submitted in writing to the Department Director, Placement and Permanency Planning. If approved, the placement department will identify a licensed foster home. The family identified may only be used if they are licensed for the child's characteristics and have available space to include the child on a temporary basis.

The child's assigned caseworker is responsible for the completion of an Individual Child Care Agreement (ICCA) for agency arranged emergency overnight alternative care. The licensed alternative foster home will be paid the child's board rate. The foster home will receive no payment on the dates alternative care is provided. See Caregiver Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard policy for additional guidance.

If requested, SCCS will provide caregivers with eight hours (8) per month of drop-in respite care for each child ages six (6) weeks to twelve (12) years old in agency custody and placed in the caregiver's home.

Drop-in respite care is handled through a voucher system. Vouchers can be requested through the foster home caseworker (coordinator). Caregivers will receive two (2) vouchers, each worth four (4) hours of care for each child placed in their home. Vouchers can be used on two separate days for up to four (4) hours each time or can be combined for one full day of childcare. Vouchers expire at the end of the month and cannot be carried over to the next month or used for another child.

Vouchers will be valid for contracted day care centers only. Caregivers will be provided a list of contracted centers. Caregivers are responsible for contacting the center regarding availability, providing the voucher and completing the required paperwork.

SCCS will not reimburse caregivers for any cost incurred that exceeds the time allotted by the voucher.