

Clothing for Children in Custody

SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

ORC: 5153.16 OAC: 5180:2-47-19; 5180:2-47-15; 5180:2-47-17; 5180:2-47-10 USC: N/A CFR: N/A Other Supporting Authority: N/A BOT Resolution #: N/A	ORIGINAL: 9/22/2006 REVISION/REVIEW: 11/29/2006; 4/04/2007; 9/23/2008; 8/2009; 12/2009; 05/2010; 08/2010; 12/28/2011; 6/08/2015; 2/11/2020; 3/23/2021; 3/6/2026; 07/10/2026 NEXT REVIEW: 07/10/2031 RELATED FORM(S): Clothing Checklist; Placement Services Agreement; Request for Kinship Resources; Placement Funds Request RELATED PROCEDURE/POLICY(IES): N/A
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| ☐ Administrative | ☐ Legal |
| ☐ Fiscal | ☐ Safety & Security |
| ☐ Human Resources | ☒ Social Services – All Departments |
| ☐ Information Technology | ☒ Social Services – Foster & Adoption |

All Staff ☐ Bargaining Unit ☐ Non-Bargaining ☐ Management ☐

POLICY:

Summit County Children Services (SCCS) collaborates with resource caregivers to ensure that a child's clothing needs are met while they are in agency custody.

PROCEDURE:

Initial Placements

SCCS provides a \$400 stipend to all resource caregivers at the time a child is placed in agency custody to pay for clothing and/or incidentals. The same initial stipend may also be requested, based on need, for relatives/kin who assume emergency temporary custody. In order for caregivers to receive an initial stipend, the necessary documentation needs to be provided to the SCCS caseworker.

Placement Funds Request Distribution Process:

- The emergency or initial placement funds request is completed by the child's caseworker, kinship caseworker, placement caseworker, resource coordinator, or supervisor on behalf of the caregiver.
 - For non-licensed resource caregiver homes, the Request for Kinship Resources form is sent to the clerical specialist(s) in the kinship unit for processing.

- For licensed resource caregiver homes, the Placement Funds Request form is sent to the Fiscal department via the Placement Card Request email (JFS SUMMIT-PCSA-PlacementCardRequests).
- All other requests are sent to the Placement Services administrative assistant or designee for processing.

Placement Changes

A stipend for children already in SCCS custody who are changing placements may be requested by the child's caseworker if it is determined that a need exists.

Stipends are not issued within 90 days of each other unless extenuating circumstances apply. Clothing purchased for children with the stipends goes with the child when a placement change occurs. SCCS reviews and issues stipend requests for children who are changing placements within five (5) days of the placement change. If the licensed resource caregiver home has received a stipend in the last 90 days, department director approval is needed.

Maintenance

Non-Licensed Resource Caregivers and Licensed/Certified Kinship Resource Caregivers

Non-licensed resource caregivers and licensed/certified kinship resource caregivers receive an ongoing stipend for clothing every six (6) months, in the amount of \$300, via direct deposit to the caregiver's checking or savings account.

SCCS Licensed Traditional Resource Caregivers

Beyond the initial stipend, licensed resource caregivers must provide clothing to foster children utilizing funds received through the foster care board rate. SCCS provides licensed resource caregivers with a clothing checklist which outlines the clothing that must be provided based on the age of the child. Resource coordinators review the checklist with the caregivers quarterly, and SCCS reserves the right to review the clothing checklist with the resource caregivers at any time. Failure to provide adequate clothing may result in removal of the child, or an inability to place children in the resource caregiver home in the future.

Clothing and footwear must be:

- Kept clean and well maintained
- An appropriate size
- Seasonally appropriate
- Age appropriate

Any clothing with permanent damage must be replaced. When placement terminates, all caregivers provide children with the clothes that have been purchased for them.

Special Clothing Requests

Resource caregivers may request reimbursement for special clothing in limited situations, as defined below. Caregivers contact their resource coordinator, kinship assessor, or the child's caseworker for special clothing reimbursement.

Resource caregivers who are approved for a stipend to purchase clothing for any one of the following special circumstances are issued the stipend via direct deposit into a checking or savings account. Advance approval is needed for the following:

I. School Uniforms

If the child is enrolled in a school district that requires school uniforms, SCCS approves a reimbursement to the caregiver for uniforms up to a maximum of \$250 per school year. The caregiver may purchase the uniforms at a store of their choice and submit the receipts to SCCS for reimbursement.

II. Extracurricular Activity Uniforms

SCCS may pre-approve up to \$500 per child, per calendar year for extracurricular activities. Any additional clothing required over the \$500 for extracurricular activities is to be covered through the resource caregiver board rate or biannual kinship clothing stipend.

III. Special Occasion Events

SCCS reimburses up to \$300 twice per child, per year for prom dresses or tuxedos, or other special events.

IV. Other Exceptional Circumstances

SCCS may approve a special circumstance request for up to \$500 per child in the following circumstances, including but not limited to:

- Pregnancy
- Extreme weight gain or loss
- Lost, destroyed or stolen clothing as long as the loss was not through the fault, omission or acts of the caregiver.
- Other circumstances as approved by a supervisor and department director

VI. Senior Expenses

SCCS may approve senior expenses up to \$1,000 once per senior. Items may include graduation expenses such as cap and gown, class ring, letterman's jacket, senior pictures or other senior-related expenses.

See also: SCCS Placement Services Agreement for clothing provisions for children placed with contracted providers.