

Section: Family and Children's

Subject: Alternate Care – Clothing Allowance

Title: Clothing Allowance for Children in Foster Care

- I. PURPOSE:** Children who are placed in foster care at times have very few resources including an adequate wardrobe of clothing. When children are initially placed outside of the parental home a clothing allowance is available per the guidelines established by the Uniform Foster Care Rate, State of Wisconsin. In addition the department may approve of additional clothing allowance under an exceptional rate per HSS 56.09(5). The amount of the clothing allowance is determined by the agency and should not exceed the actual costs of the clothing. **Clothing allowance is to be used only for the purchase of clothing, other accessories (purses, backpacks, baseball caps etc) will not be reimbursed under clothing allowance.**
- II. APPLICABILITY:** This policy applies to all La Crosse County foster homes and any contracted treatment foster care placements where clothing allowance has been approved.
- III. DEFINITIONS:** Clothing: under garments, socks, slacks, pants, skirts, shorts, blouses, shirts, shoes, boots, outerwear, coats, winter hats, mittens etc.
- IV. POLICY/PROCEDURE:**
- | Children/Youth ages: | 2007 Clothing Allowance |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 0 – 4 | up to \$150.00 |
| 5 – 11 | up to \$175.00 |
| 12 – 14 | up to \$200.00 |
| 15 – 18 | up to \$200.00 |
- 1.) When a child has been placed in an emergency foster home and does not have sufficient clothing, the emergency foster parents may request use of clothing allowance. Emergency foster parents should plan, as a guideline to use no more than \$50.00 of a child's initial clothing allowance. Request to use \$50.00 of the clothing allowance should be made to the Alternate Care Social Worker.
 - 2.) When a child moves from an emergency foster care placement to an ongoing placement or moves from one La County foster home to another La Crosse County foster home, written notice will be sent to the foster parent if a portion of the clothing allowance has been used.
 - 3.) It is the responsibility of the foster parent to obtain verification regarding the amount of clothing allowance available for a specific child prior to purchasing clothing and requesting reimbursement. This information can be obtained from the Alternate Care Social Services Specialist Rhonda Rude over the phone (789-4834). Failure to verify the amount available could result in the non-reimbursement of receipts submitted.
 - 4.) **Receipts for clothing should be submitted within the month the clothing was purchased.**
 - 5.) **When a child leaves your home receipts for any clothing purchases are due within five working days.**

- 6.) Requests for exceptional clothing allowance (when child's initial clothing allowance has been exhausted) must be made in writing to the Alternate Care Social worker with justification or explanation of the exceptional need.
- 7.) Non-clothing items including accessories will not be reimbursed.
- 8.) All clothing purchased becomes the property of the child and should be sent with the child upon discharge. If a child has out grown clothing, please make attempts to see if there are other children in his/her family that could use the clothing or donate to the La Crosse County foster care Clothes Closet.

V. METHOD OF REVIEW: This policy will be reviewed annually in April of each year.

EFFECTIVE: 1/1/01
REVISED: 4/30/2007
APPROVED: K. KELLER