

GUIDELINES FOR MAINTENANCE

Effective October 1, 2012

THERAPEUTIC/SPECIALIZED FOSTER CHILDREN

Age of Child	Clothing	Recreation	Allowance	Monthly Amount Provided to Child
0 thru 9	\$50.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$70.00
10 thru 13	\$70.00	\$30.00	\$50.00	\$150.00
14 and over	\$100.00	\$45.00	\$80.00	\$225.00

These are only guidelines

The dollar amounts in the above tables are ***recommended*** guidelines to help the foster parent assist the foster child in money management/life skills. They are not meant to be absolutes. Each child is different and will have different needs.

_____/_____
Foster Parent Initials

Financial Responsibilities

From the monthly board rate that you receive as a foster parent, you are expected to provide the child with such needs as indicated below but not limited to:

- **Transportation;**
- Childcare;
- School supplies; and
- Basic living needs (food, personal hygiene needs, shelter, utilities, etc.).

_____/_____
Foster Parent Initials

Transportation

Foster parents are responsible for all transportation needs of the foster youth. Transportation includes but is not limited to all trips to medical and dental appointments, mental health and therapy sessions, visitation with relatives, and all extracurricular activities. In the event that the foster parent do not and/or cannot transport the foster youth, \$35.00 will be deducted from the monthly stipend for all one-way trips and \$65.00 will be deducted from the monthly stipend for all round-trip transportations that is provided by FHC staff employee/contractor. Agreements can be worked out between the foster parent and the social worker prior to the scheduled trip as necessary. Prior to the agreement, the foster parent is strongly encouraged to exhaust all possible options before contacting the social worker in order to avoid the trip-fee deduction.

_____/_____
Foster Parent Initials

Monthly Amount Provided to Child

This is the combined (clothing, recreation, & allowance) amount provided to the child and may be provided in a lump sum or provided in weekly amounts.

_____/_____
Foster Parent Initials

Clothing

Foster parents are required to provide foster children with year-round season-appropriate clothing. The amount listed in this column may be used by the foster child to purchase any extra items of clothing but cannot be used to substitute for the clothing foster parents are required to supply.

_____/_____
Foster Parent Initials

Recreation

The amounts listed in this column should be considered as "pocket money" or "extra spending money" to be used by the foster child during various activities, i.e. field trips, camps, and extracurricular activities. However, foster parents are expected to cover large expenses associated with the registration for activities, such as field trips, school dances, prom, graduation, and other similar events.

_____/_____
Foster Parent Initials

Treat them as your own

As a foster parent, you are expected to provide for the foster children in your home as you would for your own children. You are expected to pay for all groceries, personal hygiene items (i.e., deodorant, tampons, soap, shampoo and the like), school supplies, field trips, laundry expenses, extracurricular activities (i.e., sports, dance lessons, music lessons, etc.), special events such as graduation and prom, summer camp and special summer schools, and transportation cost (i.e., purchasing Metro fare cards, reloading of Metro SmarTrip cards, etc.) just as you would for your biological children. **Your monthly stipend is intended to cover such expenses.** There are a few extenuating circumstances for which you may be able to receive additional support from Foundations. However, most of the expenses associated with child-rearing have been accounted for when calculating the monthly stipend. If you are ever in doubt about whether you should be responsible for covering a major expense, please call your social worker.

_____/_____
Foster Parent Initials

Older children

If you are caring for an older teenager, please help them learn to budget their money. They will probably not have had much experience with this skill and you can help. If you are uncomfortable giving them the total amount all at once, you can give them their allowance on a weekly basis, which is actually recommended. You can also counsel them about how to save up for expensive items that they really want, such as video game systems, mini-disk players, or other luxuries. There will be large expenses, such as class trips, school dances, prom, graduation, and other similar events associated with raising teenagers. **NOTE: DC CFSA provides up to \$400.00 to cover graduation expenses for wards of the District.** Children are not expected to cover these types of expenses out of their allowances. They can be responsible for saving up for extra spending money for these events, but not to cover the event cost and/or dresses, tuxedo rental, cap and gown, etc. These incidentals are your responsibility.

_____/_____
Foster Parent Initials

Younger children

Younger children, depending on age, should not be expected to budget and manage their own money. The budgeting and managing of their money is a process that you are expected to do for them. It is fine for you to teach them about saving for luxuries, as mentioned above, but it is not appropriate to expect them to pay for anything beyond those types of items out of their allowance.

_____/_____
Foster Parent Initials

Maryland Foster Youth Only / Tutoring Services

MD DSS will pay a portion of tutoring services. Foster parents are required to cover the unpaid cost or collaborate with the team to identify a free/lower cost tutor.

_____/_____
Foster Parent Initials

Keep all receipts

It is very important that you keep track of the money that you spend on the children in your care. You should always keep receipts for items such as clothing and school supplies and any other material items that you purchase for the children in your home. You have been provided with a financial ledger and will periodically be asked to share the financial ledger with your social worker and the agency.

_____/_____
Foster Parent Initials

Allowances

Each foster child receives a personal monthly allowance. Foster parents should provide guidance in helping children to use their personal allowance in spending and/or saving. Discretion may be used in disbursing the allowance all at once, on a weekly basis, putting part aside for savings, or another arrangement.

NOTE: Although the monthly stipend that each foster parent receives is a combination of the foster home board payment and the monthly amount provided to the foster child, the "Monthly Amount Provided to Child" is money that is strictly for the child and is not to be considered as part of the payment to the foster home or use by the foster parent.

The **only** instance in which money may be willfully held from the child for other use is in situations where the child has damaged property or belongings and need to make restitution for such items.

It is the responsibility of the foster parent to meet with the assigned social worker in order to establish a payment plan for all restitutions required for the payment of damaged or destroyed property before putting such a plan in place. Together, the foster parent and social worker will present this plan to the foster child. This will ensure that the foster child can at least receive a partial monthly allowance.

Even if the money is withheld for lack of completing chore assignments, behavior management and so forth, it must be put aside for the child in a savings account in the child's name, a piggy bank, or otherwise made available to the child at a future date.

Allowance may be paid in weekly amounts and may well exceed what is on this form, but should **not** be less. You should document each time you give allowance to a child as well as the amount provided.

_____/_____
Foster Parent Initials

Very Important: Remember to keep all receipts in order to serve as back-up documentation. It is essential to maintain the financial log of all expenses for the foster child. The foster parent is required to maintain an accounting log of all allowances provided to the foster child. All expenses are to be logged in the foster parent's financial ledger. The foster parents should voluntarily present this ledger monthly to the assigned social worker.

Primary Foster Parent's Signature / Date

Secondary Foster Parent's Signature / Date

Home Assessor's Signature / Date