



Practice Alert

Respite Facts

The following is information to assist staff in the appropriate use of and system procedures involved when foster youth and resource families access respite services:

- The Respite plan should serve equally the needs of both the foster youth and the foster caregivers.
- Respite is a contracted service which provides a temporary break for a licensed resource parent and the foster youth to preserve the placement. Respite is not child care nor is it babysitting.
- Respite care should be used to maintain stable placements, but should not be used to exclude foster children from ordinary and traditional family activities.
- The respite provider must have a currently open respite (RS) vendor type, or RP for level B respite, and an active Respite Cooperative Agreement (CM-10) entered in FACES.
- A temporary location code of OTH (Other) exists to capture the temporary location or second temporary location of children who are, for the time being, away from the placement such as for respite, summer camp or when on vacation. This information is critical to have in FACES during times of emergencies or natural disasters to show where children are placed at all times and to account for their safety.

To enter a temporary location, go to Placement Information.

- Click View Temporary Location Information.
 - Select Temporary Location Reason.
 - Click New Temporary Location.
 - Input the Temporary Location Begin Date and Select the Temporary Location Reason.
 - Select Temporary Location OTH- Other.
 - Temporary Location Type is automatically entered.
 - Enter the respite provider's address in the Vendor Information Box.
 - Hit Add.
- Respite is not the first placement for a foster youth when the court places the youth in Children's Division custody. A foster youth must have a placement in a resource home prior to being eligible for respite services.

- Respite only vendors are only approved to provide respite and may not sign an emergency cooperative agreement. Respite is not emergency foster care.
- The time the foster youth takes a break from the resource family should include planned opportunities for social activities and enrichment. Respite is a fun and rewarding time for foster youth while their placement providers are allowed to relax and have time to themselves for recharging.
- Using respite is important to reduce placement disruptions and to support safer and healthier homes.

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