



AIFACS

American Indian Family and Children's Services

AIFACS RESPITE POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to provide ongoing support for our foster parents. This respite policy will enable AIFACS foster parents to take "time off" on a regular basis.

- A. Each foster home that has a child in placement will earn respite care. Families that have 1-5 children in placement will receive 2 days of respite a month. Families that have 6+ foster children in placement will receive 4 days of respite per month. If a child is placed in your home mid-month, you will receive half the respite for that month. If there are 10 days or less left in the month, you will not receive respite for that child until the next month. The rate will be \$30.00 per day.
- B. Unused respite days will be carried over to the next month but **will not carry over from one year to the next.**
- C. Respite can only be done in the respite provider's home if the home is licensed. If the respite provider's home is not licensed, the respite must be done in the foster parent's home. If the respite provider will be doing respite for less than 72 hours continuously and less than 30 days in a year, the respite provider does not require a background check but does still need approval from your licensor. If a respite provider will be providing more than 72 hrs continuously or has provided 30 days or more of respite care, the respite provider **must** have a background check completed. In addition to a background check, they must also complete SUID/AHT and Car Seat Training if it applies to the children in care. They must be able to provide a signed statement attesting to good health and being physically able to care for foster children and have at least 6 hours of training or 20 hours of experience in caring for children with particular needs of the foster children being cared for.
- D. Foster parents and respite providers must have respite approved by their licensing worker 72 hours in advance of the respite. AIFACS licensors need to know the whereabouts of all children in foster care in case of emergencies.
- E. Payment for the respite will only be made to the respite provider, not the foster parent. Respite must be turned in by 4 pm on the Tuesday after the respite has been completed. Respite checks will be mailed out on Fridays.
- F. Foster parents must complete a **respite care payment form** to give to their AIFACS licensor and a **respite information form** to give to the respite provider. If you do not have either of these forms, please contact your licensing worker.
- G. Any exception for unforeseen circumstances will be worked out with the foster parents and AIFACS staff. If there is an emergency, AIFACS will provide emergency respite. If the family has not used their monthly respite, it will be used first. If the family has used their monthly respite, AIFACS may grant additional respite for the emergency.
- H. If a foster family chooses to provide respite for foster children from other foster care agencies, there must be a contract between AIFACS and the financial responsible party prior to the respite being provided.
- I. Members of the AIFACS staff, that are licensed providers through another foster care agency, will not provide respite care for any of the AIFACS foster homes.

Foster Parent Signature

Date

Foster Parent Signature

Date

10/2018 AD