

TAXI TRANSPORTATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN CARE

Policy no.: 3.26.1

Effective Date: August 1, 2016

Date Revised:

Policy Cross References: Block Funding; Guidelines for Services to Foster Parents Not Receiving Block Funding; Staffed Residential Placement Resources: Financial Resources

Legislative References:

PURPOSE: To outline expectations regarding taxi transportation for children or youth in the care or custody of a manager of Child, Youth and Family Services.

POLICY:

1. When a child or youth in care or custody of a manager requires transportation, taxi transportation shall only be considered as a last alternative after other means of transportation have been determined to be unavailable or inappropriate.
2. If taxi transportation is approved, all children in the care or custody of a manager under the age of 16 years shall be accompanied by an adult.
3. Taxi costs for children or youth in care shall be approved in accordance with the *Block Funding* policy or the *Guidelines for Services to Foster Parents Not Receiving Block Funding*.
4. Taxi costs for children and youth in care who are residing in residential placements is the responsibility of the service provider, in accordance with applicable service agreements.

PROCEDURES:

1. When a decision has been made by the social worker, in consultation with the placement provider (e.g. foster parent, service provider) and the supervisor, that it is necessary to transport a child in care or custody of a manager in a taxi, the social worker shall ensure:
 - a) all children under 16 years of age are accompanied by an adult;
 - b) the person entrusted with putting a child in a taxi is knowledgeable of current regulations regarding the use of child restraints in vehicles and ensure, where necessary, the child is in an approved and properly installed safety or booster seat.
2. When a decision has been made by the social worker, in consultation with the

placement provider and the supervisor, that it is necessary to transport a youth in care or custody of a manager in a taxi, the social worker shall consider the following factors to determine if the youth requires adult accompaniment:

- a) the developmental level, maturity and vulnerabilities of the youth;
- b) distance of travel;
- c) time of day;
- d) youth's comfort level travelling by taxi without an adult; and
- e) other factors relevant to the youth.

EXCEPTIONS TO POLICY: None

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS: None