



Foster Parent Guide For Babysitting, Overnight Care, and Substitute Care Needs Over 1 Night

Specialized Therapeutic or Medical Homes may have additional requirements or guidelines.

My Need	Who can care for the kids that have been placed in my care?	Are background checks required?	Are there guidelines I need to be aware of?	Who do I need to notify?	Who needs to approve?
Need a babysitter for a night out.	Someone I know and trust (neighbor, friend, at least 14 years old - needs to be responsible, trained on who to call, etc.)	No, this falls under prudent parenting.	This applies to all 'someone I know and trust' and backup caregivers. Caregivers should use the reasonable and prudent parent standard when choosing babysitters for children placed in their care. Caregivers will ensure: (1) Substitute caregiver is suitable and appropriate for the age, developmental level, and behaviors of the child. (2) Substitute caregiver receives guidance on handling emergencies, including telephone numbers for themselves, child welfare professional, and physicians. (3) Discipline and confidentiality policies for the child have been fully explained. (4) Water safety precautions have been explained.	N/A	N/A
	Another foster parent	Already screened		N/A	N/A
	The foster home's approved backup caregiver who has been fully background checked.	Already screened		N/A	N/A
	Volunteer backup caregiver	Already screened		N/A	N/A
Overnight respite or sleep over	Someone I know and trust	No, this falls under prudent parenting.	See guidelines above. Also communicate any special needs or restrictions to substitute caregiver. If visitation is impacted, need to notify CSM.	N/A unless visitation is impacted.	N/A
	Another foster parent	Already screened		CSM	CSA
	The foster home's approved backup caregiver (other than another foster parent) who has been fully background checked.	Already screened		N/A	N/A
	Volunteer backup caregiver	Already screened		N/A	N/A
1-3 nights- need to go out of town etc	Someone I know and trust	No, this falls under prudent parenting.	See guidelines above. Also communicate any special needs or restrictions to substitute caregiver. Caregivers shall notify the assigned child welfare professional in advance of all overnight stays exceeding three (3) nights. Caregivers shall ensure that the assigned child welfare professional can contact them at all times regarding the location and needs of the child.	CSM	N/A
	Another foster parent	Already screened		CSM	CSA
	The foster home's approved backup caregiver (other than another foster parent) who has been fully background checked.	Already screened		CSM	N/A

My Need	Who can care for the kids that have been placed in my care?	Are background checks required?	Are there guidelines I need to be aware of?	Who do I need to notify?	Who needs to approve?
	Volunteer backup caregiver	Already screened		CSM	CSA
3-6 nights	Another foster parent	Already screened		CSM	CSA
	The foster home's approved backup caregiver who has been fully background checked.	Already screened (see note)	Substitute caregivers chosen by the caregiver will be background screened for all stays exceeding three (3) nights.	CSM	N/A
	Volunteer backup caregiver	Already screened		CSM	CSA
1-2 weeks	Another foster parent	Already screened		CSM	CSA
	The foster home's approved backup caregiver who has been fully background checked.	Already screened (see note)	Substitute caregivers chosen by the caregiver will be background screened for all stays exceeding three (3) nights.	CSM	CSA
	Volunteer backup caregiver	Already screened		CSM	CSA
Over 2 weeks (case by case basis)	Another foster parent	Already screened		CSM	CSA
	The foster home's approved backup caregiver who has been fully background checked.	Already screened (see note)	Substitute caregivers chosen by the caregiver will be background screened for all stays exceeding three (3) nights.	CSM	CSA
	Volunteer backup caregiver	Already screened		CSM	CSA