



<i>Child Protection Act R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. C-5.1</i>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Child Protection</b>	
	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Transporting Children Receiving Services</b>	<b>Policy # 1.14</b>
<b>Effective Date: January 24, 2011</b>		<b>Authorized by:</b>	
<b>Revised Date: June 1, 2017</b>		<b>Deputy Minister, Teresa Hennebery</b>	

## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To provide direction to employees and foster parents transporting or arranging transportation for children receiving services.

## **2.0 POLICY STATEMENT**

- 2.1 The *Child Protection Act* provides authority for employees to transport children receiving services for investigation, children in care, and to provide services to a child over the age of sixteen (16) years. All other situations require parental consent.
- 2.2 All employees and foster parents are required to comply with all statutes and regulations specific to operating a motor vehicle whenever transporting children receiving services.
- 2.3 All transportation related incidents involving children receiving services must be reported to Child Protection Services and documented.
- 2.4 Due diligence is required in making decisions related to transporting children receiving services during inclement weather.
- 2.5 Foster parents shall maintain a minimum amount of \$2 million insurance on all vehicles owned and used to transport children in care.
- 2.6 Employees and foster parents will only allow adults they believe to be responsible and capable drivers to transport children in care.
- 2.7 The requirement for \$2 million vehicle insurance does not apply to other adults, including parents of the child's peers, who are transporting children in care.

## **3.0 PROCEDURES**

- 3.1 Employees and foster parents must comply with statutes and regulations specific to operating a motor vehicle whenever transporting children receiving services, including but not limited to:

- ensuring the motor vehicle is registered, inspected, insured, and in good driving condition
  - compliance with the *PEI Highway Traffic Act & Regulations* pertaining to seatbelt use and infant/child restraint systems
  - ensuring restraint systems and booster seats meet Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standard requirements, have not exceeded the expiry date, are properly maintained, and are installed properly
  - compliance with the *PEI Highway Traffic Act & Regulations* pertaining to handheld devices while driving, including not operating any hand-held wireless communication device unless the vehicle is off the roadway and not in motion or the motor vehicle is lawfully parked.
- 3.2 Employees and foster parents must immediately report any incident related to transporting children receiving services to the social worker and supervisor. For incidents received on After Hours Emergency Child Protection Service, the appropriate supervisor will be advised the following business day. The social worker will complete all required documentation, including but not limited to, incident reports, accident reports, Workers Compensation forms, and case notes.
- 3.3 In addition to compliance with the *PEI Highway Traffic Act & Regulations*, due diligence is required to determine whether road / weather conditions, or pending weather conditions may pose a safety risk. Factors to consider include:
- public information available from police, RCMP, and provincial government departments
  - travel advisories
  - road conditions
  - current weather conditions and forecasted weather conditions
  - an assessment regarding the urgency and necessity of travel for the child
  - an assessment of the impact on the child if transportation is cancelled
- 3.4 The foster parent may contact the social worker when uncertain about transportation conditions and decisions. If a decision regarding transportation of children receiving services is required after business hours, the After Hours Emergency Child Protection Social Worker may be contacted.
- 3.5 If transportation is cancelled and road or weather conditions improve, the situation may be reassessed to determine if the child can be safely transported.
- 3.6 Resource workers will review transportation requirements prior to contracting with a foster parent. The resource worker completing the foster parent assessment will confirm

that the foster parent has appropriate minimum insurance coverage. This requirement will be reviewed during the annual foster home review.

- 3.7 In the event an employee has questions or concerns about transporting children or allowing others to transport a children in care, the employee will consult with a supervisor to review the information and the situation.
- 3.8 In the event a foster parent has questions or concerns about transporting children or allowing others to transport a children in care, they will contact the child's social worker or supervisor, or the after hours social worker, to review the information and the situation.
- 3.9 Employees and foster parents approving another person to transport a child in care will use sound judgement and only allow a child in care to travel with a person they believe to be safe. The foster parent will make alternate arrangements for the child's travel if they believe the child would be unsafe to travel otherwise.

#### **4.0 REFERENCES**

After Hours Emergency Child Protection Services 1.11

*PEI Highway Traffic Act & Regulations*

*Smoke Free Places Act*

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#### **HISTORY:**

July 16, 2013 - Editorial and format changes

May 17, 2017 - Added Foster Parent insurance requirement, information on other people transporting children, and Worker's Compensation form editorial changes