



<i>Child Protection Act R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. C-5.1</i>	Program	Foster Care	
	Subject	Foster Care Support Plan	Policy #
Effective Date: December 15, 2021		Authorized by:	
Revised Date:		Deputy Minister David Keedwell	

1.0 PURPOSE

To support foster care placements with high or exceptional needs, through the provision of additional resources and services.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **Child in Care Social Worker:** a social worker assigned to work within the Child in Care Team to provide case management and social work support to children in care. The Child in Care Social Worker is authorized by the Director of Child Protection to perform these functions.
- 2.2 **Designated Representative (DR):** a person designated by the band council to represent the band respecting an Indigenous child.
- 2.3 **Foster Care Support Plan:** a temporary plan created to provide additional supports to foster families.
- 2.4 **Foster Parent(s):** a person who has been approved by the Department, and has signed a foster care contract, to provide day-to-day care to children who are in the legal custody and guardianship of the Director of Child Protection.
- 2.5 **Indigenous Governing Body (IGB):** a council, government or other entity that is authorized to act on behalf of an Indigenous group, community or people that holds rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- 2.6 **Resource Social Worker:** a social worker assigned to work within the Foster Care Program to provide front-line support to Foster Parents and additional social work supports when/if required. The Resource Social Worker is authorized by the Director of Child Protection to perform these functions.
- 2.7 **Significant Measure:** anything that could significantly change the day-to-day life of an Indigenous child and/or Foster Parent or impact the timeline of permanency or reunification.

2.8 **Special Placement Arrangement:** a unique agreement made with a Foster Parent to enable the placement of a child with specific and high needs into a foster home. Foster Parent(s) who enter into a Special Placement Agreement have a demonstrated ability to meet the unique needs of the child.

3.0 **POLICY STATEMENT**

3.1 Foster Care Support Plans are only created when the Child in Care and Resource Social Workers identify the need for additional placement support in order to sustain placement stability or additional placement requirements.

3.2 Foster Care Support Plans are temporary plans with a 3-month review process.

3.3 Social workers seeking additional supports and services to meet the cultural or other identified needs of First Nations children can also apply for Jordan's Principle.

4.0 **PROCEDURE STATEMENT**

Creating and Approving the Foster Care Support Plan

4.1 The Foster Parent's Resource Social Worker and/or the child's Child in Care Social Worker can identify the need for a Foster Care Support Plan when:

- The Foster Parent has a child with specific needs beyond the classification level, experience, knowledge, or typical scope of the Foster Parent; or
- Exceptional circumstances being experienced by the Foster Parent require additional supports to maintain active placement.

4.2 The Foster Care Support Plan form (attached) is completed by the Foster Parent's Resource Social Worker, in conjunction with the child's Child in Care Social Worker. In addition to the formal supports being provided, other relevant information (i.e. additional informal supports provided to the child or family, any increase in social worker contact, training, etc.) should also be outlined in the form.

4.3 Before taking any significant measure in relation to an Indigenous child the Child in Care social worker must provide notice, when consistent with the best interests of the child, to the Indigenous Governing Body (IGB) or the Designated Representative (DR).

4.4 Prior to the provision of any additional supports, the Foster Care Support Plan must receive approval and signatures from the Child in Care and Resource Supervisors.

4.5 The Child in Care and Resource Social Workers, as well as the Foster Parent(s), must sign the approved Foster Care Support Plan form. For Special Placement Arrangements the Manager of Children's Services signature is also required.

- 4.6 The Child in Care and Resource Social Workers save a copy of the signed Foster Care Support Plan in both the child and Foster Parent files.

Reviewing the Plan

- 4.7 The Resource Social Worker initiates the 3-month review of the plan.
- 4.8 If the plan is renewed, an updated Foster Care Support Plan form is completed in alignment with the above process (sections 4.2 to 4.6).

Termination

- 4.9 The Resource Social Worker must ensure that the Foster Care Support Plan and any associated supports are terminated when the placement has ended, or the placement no longer requires a support plan.
- 4.10 The Child in Care Social Worker and Resource Social Worker save records of the completed or terminated Foster Care Support Plan on both the child and Foster Parent files.

5.0 ATTACHMENTS

- 5.1 Foster Care Support Plan Form



Foster Care Support Plan

Foster Care

This form provides documentation of the services needed to support the foster care placement. All information is collected under the *Child Protection Act* and is managed in compliance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) Act*.

Plan Approval Date yyyy-mm-dd

Plan Review Date yyyy-mm-dd

Is the child Indigenous? Yes No

Child's name

Date of Birth:

Year

Month

Day

Child's PHN

Child's Intervention Status

Foster Parent

Foster Parent PHN

Foster Parent Classification

Child in Care Social Worker

Resource Social Worker

Support Plan for the following situations

The Foster Parent and the Social Worker identified the need for support based on the needs of the child.

The Foster Parent has child placements beyond its classification level.

Approval to assign a placement beyond the classification guidelines.

Special Placement Arrangement

Other

Support Services

Additional support services will be provided based on the needs of the child and Foster Parent and include:

Child Care	(\$)	Respite	(\$)
Youth Worker	(\$)	Homemaker	(\$)
Aid (1 to 1)	(\$)	Transportation	(\$)
In Home Support	(\$)	Exceptional Recreational	(\$)
Training	(\$)	Counseling/Assessment	(\$)
Tutor	(\$)	Cultural Advisor/Elder	(\$)
Other	(\$)		

Comments (include details of supports provided above and informal supports available to the Foster Parent)

Additional Comments from Supervisor

Total \$ per month.

Approval Signatures

Foster Parent

Resource Social Worker

Child in Care Social Worker

Child in Care Supervisor

Resource Supervisor

Manager of Children's Services (Required for Special Placement Arrangements)