

Alternative Caregiver/Respite and Checklist for Care

Foster care can be challenging, and there are times when families need assistance with the fulltime care of the child. Alternative care is support for Resource Families in order to provide personal, self-care, or adult time for the resource parents. Alternative Care is utilized when the child is in care for 24 hours, but can only exceed 72 hours with prior CSW permission. Respite care is up to 14 days with CSW approval. Alternative care is not to be used as regular childcare or for preservation of the placement. Serenity encourages families to form relationships with care givers and to engage on a regular basis. This is not only beneficial as a family support, but is also helpful for children who need alternative care to be with people they are comfortable with and already know. Alternative Caregivers can be people identified through prudent parenting. Respite care is only with another approved resource parent.

The alternative caregiver must be:

- 1) 21 years old older
- 2) Live Scan cleared
- 3) Criminal Background Cleared
- 4) Completed a Release of Information and Request for History of Child Abuse/Neglect

If transporting the child a Valid Driver's License, current DMV printout, and current auto insurance must be on file.

Please document the alternative care on the monthly voucher.

Serenity asks that families inform their Serenity social worker that they are using alternative care before it happens. When needing to use care for longer than 72 hours, at least 2 weekd notice is needed to get permission from the child's CSW. However, Serenity understands that there can be times where notice is not possible, and we will do our best to support families in locating emergency alternative care.

Basic Required Provisions for Child(ren) during Alternative Care

The items listed below are to be given to the care-provider on the same day that the child is being left in their care. All items must be clean, appropriately sized, in good repair, and adequate for the length of time the child will be in the care:

Clothing/underwear/shoes

Diapers/wipes – all infant care items

Personal toiletry items

Child's Home File: confirm that the Medi-Cal card Medical Authorization are in the file

Comfort items (favorite toy, stuffed animals, etc.)

Copy of completed Emergency Contact Information Form

Daily Rates:

Rates are indicated as per night of care.

Serenity prefers that payment arrangements be made between resource parents. Should you prefer Serenity deduct payment from your stipend, please complete the respite reimbursement form and submit with your voucher.

Daily base rate for 0 – 17 years = \$42 (plus LOC if applicable)

I understand the use of Authorized Caregivers and the above information.

Resource Parent Signature

Resource Parent Signature

Date _____

Date _____