



State of South Carolina

Department of Social Services

Policies and Procedures: Child Welfare Manual

Subject:	1.7 Foster Care Family Maintenance Payments		
Authority:	Title IV-E of the Social Security Act Sections 471, 472, and 475; 45 CFR Sections 1355.20(a) and 1356.21(c); and South Carolina Appropriations Act, Part 1B, Section 38-L040- Department of Social Services		
Standards:	Guiding Principles and Standards (GPS) Practice Model		
Application:	All Child Welfare Staff		
Purpose:	To define how DSS will compute partial-month Family Foster Care Payments when a change in placement occurs within a given month.		
Policy Statement:	South Carolina Appropriation Act, Part 1B, Section 38 establishes monthly Family Foster Care Payments based on the age of the child for children whom the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) places in non-therapeutic foster family homes. When a foster child placement changes from one foster family home to another within a given month, DSS prorates the applicable monthly payment by paying a daily rate for each day the child resided in each foster family home placement. To promote consistency in the daily compensation amounts paid in all cases of partial-month custody, the daily rate shall be computed by dividing the applicable monthly rate established by the General Assembly in the South Carolina Appropriations Act by 30.		
Policy Administration:	Financial Services is the policy owner and will review on a yearly basis and request updates as needed.		
Procedures:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>A. Foster Care Maintenance Payment for Non-Therapeutic Children placed in a Foster Family Home</td><td> - For each full month that a non-therapeutic child is placed in a foster family home, CAPSS generates a foster care payment equal to the applicable monthly amount established in the S.C. Appropriations Act, Part 1B, Section 38, effective during the month of custody. - For each placement of a non-therapeutic child in a foster family home for less than an entire month, CAPSS generates a prorated foster care payment. - Regardless of when the partial-month foster family home placement occurs, CAPSS computes the prorated Family Foster Care Payment amount by dividing the monthly rate applicable to the child by 30 days and then multiplying the result by the number of days the child was in the payee foster family home placement. This means that in 31-day months, the sum of payments made to foster parents for a given child may equal 31/30ths of the applicable monthly rate. Conversely, when custody changes in February, the sum of these payments may equal only 28/30ths or 29/30ths of the monthly rate. </td></tr> </table>	A. Foster Care Maintenance Payment for Non-Therapeutic Children placed in a Foster Family Home	- For each full month that a non-therapeutic child is placed in a foster family home, CAPSS generates a foster care payment equal to the applicable monthly amount established in the S.C. Appropriations Act, Part 1B, Section 38, effective during the month of custody. - For each placement of a non-therapeutic child in a foster family home for less than an entire month, CAPSS generates a prorated foster care payment. - Regardless of when the partial-month foster family home placement occurs, CAPSS computes the prorated Family Foster Care Payment amount by dividing the monthly rate applicable to the child by 30 days and then multiplying the result by the number of days the child was in the payee foster family home placement. This means that in 31-day months, the sum of payments made to foster parents for a given child may equal 31/30ths of the applicable monthly rate. Conversely, when custody changes in February, the sum of these payments may equal only 28/30ths or 29/30ths of the monthly rate.
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Subject: CWS Policy 1.7: Foster Care Family Maintenance Payments

B. Annual Review of Family Foster Care Payment Amounts	The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of DSS, or their designee is responsible for conducting an annual review internally to ensure the appropriateness of the Family Foster Care Payment amounts. This review is to occur at a minimum annually, considering a variety of relevant factors, and will include participation by other executive management and assistance from other staff as the CFO deems necessary.
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Glossary:

CAPSS: Child and Adult Protective Services System, the electronic case management reporting system.

Family Foster Care Payment: Monthly payment issued to a foster family home provider, including kinship foster family home providers, to support the placement of a non-therapeutic foster child. The foster care payment amount is established in the South Carolina Appropriations Act and is for the basic needs of the foster child, includes food (at home and away), clothing, housing, transportation, education and other costs, as defined in the U.S. Department of Agriculture study of "Annual Cost of Raising a Child to Age Eighteen."

Foster Family Home Provider: means the home of an individual or family licensed by DSS, in which at least one foster child has been placed in the care of an individual who resides with the child and who provides 24-hour substitute care for the child: that DSS deems the individual capable of adhering to the reasonable and prudent parent standard and, that provides foster care for no more than 5 children, subject to the following expectations:

- a. to keep a sibling group together
- b. to keep a child in the child's home community
- c. to return a child to a home in which the child was previously placed
- d. to comply with a court order
- e. if it is in the best interests of the child as determined by the court

Non-Therapeutic Child: means a child who is cared for by a foster parent in a typical home environment, without the need for specialized training or the provision of specialized treatment. The child has not been deemed by qualified professionals to have significant medical needs or emotional, behavioral, or social issues. Parents fostering these children receive the standard Foster Parent supports and services.

South Carolina Appropriations Act, Part 1B, Section 38: The section of South Carolina's Appropriations Act, normally issued annually, that enumerates appropriations and payments authorized for SCDSS, including the amounts of monthly Family Foster Care Payments SCDSS is authorized to pay Foster Family Home Providers, including kinship foster family home providers.