

SUBJECT 290-2-31 RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR RESPITE CARE OF MORE THAN 72 HOURS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Rule 290-2-31-.01 Definitions

Unless a different meaning is required by the context, the following terms as used in these Rules and Regulations shall have the meaning hereafter respectively ascribed to them:

- (a) "Child-placing agency" or "CPA" means any institution, society, agency, or facility, whether incorporated or not, which places children in foster homes for temporary care or adoption.
- (b) "Department" means the Department of Human Services of the State of Georgia.
- (c) "DFCS" means the Department of Human Services Division of Family and Children Services of the State of Georgia.
- (d) "Caregiver" means a foster parent with whom a child in foster care has been placed.
- (e) "Foster parent(s)" means the adult member(s) of a foster family who provides supervision and care in a parental role for a child in foster care in full approval status through DFCS or a CPA.
- (f) "Short-term" means up to seventy-two (72) consecutive hours or for such longer periods of time under such circumstances as may be promulgated by the department pursuant to rules and regulations.
- (g) "Occasional" means once per week or less on varying days and not exceeding twice per month.
- (h) "Respite care" means occasional or short-term relief for a caregiver by a person or entity.
- (i) "Extended" means more than seventy-two (72) hours.

Rule 290-2-31-.02 Applicability

An individual who is not a Foster Parent is subject to an assessment by DFCS to determine suitability prior to providing Extended Respite Care for any Foster Parent. No additional assessment is required for a Foster Parent to provide Respite Care and Extended Respite Care to another Foster Parent.

Rule 290-2-31-.03 Procedure for Respite Care of More Than 72 Hours for Children in Foster Care

- (a) A Foster Parent will provide their DFCS case manager or such case manager's supervisor and, if applicable, the CPA, advance written notice of an intent to use Extended Respite Care.
- i. The notice shall identify who will be providing Extended Respite Care, where Extended Respite Care will occur, and when the Extended Respite Care period will begin and end.
 - ii. Email is the preferred method for providing advance notice to DFCS and, if applicable, the CPA.
 - iii. Approval shall be obtained from DFCS prior to a Foster Parent utilizing Extended Respite Care.
 - iv. Email is the preferred method for DFCS to provide approval to the foster parent utilizing extended respite care.
- (b) An individual designated to provide Extended Respite Care who is not a Foster Parent shall be assessed by DFCS prior to providing Extended Respite Care in accordance with the DFCS Child Welfare Policy Manual, Policy, and Procedures.

Statutory Authority: O.C.G.A. § 49-5-3, 49-5-8, 49-5-8.1.