

**Treatment: Foster Care**

**Clothing Needs For Children in Placement**

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<b>Introduction</b>	This policy shall provide guidance to social workers, foster parents and congregate care providers in meeting the clothing needs of children and youth placed in DCF care.
<b>Purpose</b>	DCF shall meet the clothing needs of children and youth placed in our care. This includes having our children's clothing needs adequately met in terms of quality and quantity of clothing and reflective of the child's growth, seasonal changes and in preparation for the start of school.
<b>Policy</b>	This Policy applies to all placement types.
<b>Clothing Voucher</b>	<p>The clothing voucher is available to provide for the necessary clothing for the first time a child is placed in DCF care. The amount represents the allowance given for a child who is without an adequate supply or has no clothing at all at the time of placement.</p> <p>The initial clothing voucher amount shall not exceed \$300.00 without the prior approval of a Program Manager.</p> <p>The clothing voucher is designed to be used as an initial clothing supplement to the monthly reimbursement funds provided for each child placed in all foster care and specified congregate care placements.</p> <p>Consideration is given to the child's available supply of serviceable clothing and the child's clothing needs. The clothing needs of the child are discussed and assessed by the social worker with the foster parent or child's caretaker at the time of placement.</p>
<b>Voucher Flexibility</b>	<p>The social worker may request an increase in the voucher amount from a Program Manager for emergency and immediate clothing needs only when the child's clothing needs have been assessed as such. Clothing can be obtained by either the Social Worker, facility staff or the foster parent. Clothing obtained shall be consistent with the identified needs.</p> <p>In order to determine whether and to what amount the voucher should be increased the social worker and Program Manager shall consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• what emergency and/or immediate clothing is needed and</li><li>• when the foster parent or placement staff will receive their first monthly reimbursement funds</li></ul>
<b>Emergency Clothing Assessment</b>	An emergency clothing assessment shall be conducted as soon as possible, after the child or youth enters into placement, by the social worker. Emergency clothing needs are identified as those items of clothing the youth needs for everyday functioning, including outerwear appropriate for seasonal conditions.

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#### **Initial Clothing Assessment and Provision For Immediate Needs**

An initial clothing assessment shall be conducted within the first week of placement, by the social worker, along with the foster parent and placement staff, to assess and provide for any other immediate clothing needs beyond the emergency clothing articles discussed above. The child may require additional use of the clothing voucher to meet this need.

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#### **On-Going Clothing Assessment**

During ongoing visits the social worker, along with the foster parent or placement staff, shall conduct an on-going assessment to determine the need for replacement clothing. This assessment shall, to the extent possible, coincide with seasonal changes, the child's growth and in preparation for the start of school.

Based on this joint comparison, clothing shall be purchased as needed.

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#### **Reimbursement For Replacement Clothing**

Foster Home Replacement Clothing - Reimbursement is included in the monthly foster care funds for All DCF licensed homes

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#### **Congregate Care Facilities Replacement Clothing**

Reimbursement is included in the funds made available from DCF to the following congregate care providers:

- Level 2 Therapeutic Group Homes
- Shelters
- Residential Treatment Centers, (except for Midwestern Connecticut Council on Alcoholism and Stonington Institute)
- Preparing Adolescents for Self-Sufficiency Group Homes (PASS Homes)

In the event that the cost for clothing exceeds the reimbursement amount the social worker shall obtain approval for the use of wraparound funds to purchase necessary clothing.

Note: Social Workers for children placed in Midwestern Connecticut Council on Alcoholism and Stonington Institute shall utilize wraparound funds or vouchers to obtain emergency, immediate and replacement clothing in order to create and maintain an adequate clothing inventory for all placed children and youth.

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#### **Consultation With Parents and Children**

Whenever possible, social workers shall consult with the parents of children planned for reunification to determine clothing style preferences and to meet clothing needs. Social workers will consult with school age children to determine clothing style preferences and to meet clothing needs.

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