



Respite Guidelines and Checklist for Care

Foster care can be challenging, and there are times when families need a break from fulltime care of the child. Respite care is support for Resource Families in order to preserve the placement. Respite care is not intended to exceed 72 hours, though it can be extended up to 14 days by a county social worker on an as needed basis. The respite care provider must be a certified, approved, or licensed foster/resource parent, an approved relative, or NERFM. Respite care is not to be used for the purpose of routine, ongoing child care, as this is covered by Alternative Caregivers and Babysitters per the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standards.

Serenity encourages families to form relationships with other resource and foster families and to engage on a regular basis. This is not only beneficial as a family support, but is also helpful for children who go into respite care to be with people they are comfortable with and already know.

Serenity asks that families indicate that they need respite care as soon as possible with a preference of a two weeks' notice as it is needed in advance 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 respite care.

Basic Required Provisions for Child(ren) during Respite 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 Respite Care / Babysitting Rates:

Rates are indicated as per night of care.

Serenity is **not** responsible for payment of respite care. All monies must be provided by the child's current Resource/Foster family to the respite care provider.

Daily base rate for 0 – 17 years = \$39.54 (plus LOC if applicable)