

## Child and Family Services Policy Manual: Substitute Care for Children Clothing Allowance

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### Parental Responsibility

If the child has suitable clothing in the parental home, parents should be encouraged to provide the clothing for the child when the foster placement is made or shortly thereafter.

If the parents refuse to provide the child's clothing and it is reported to the Division that clothing is available, the parents may be ordered by the court to cooperate with the Division in providing the child's clothing. This may be requested in the petition for Temporary Investigative Authority and Immediate Protection and Emergency Protective Services or in a petition for Temporary Legal Custody.

### Purpose

The clothing allowance is intended to ensure that a child in care has at least a basic wardrobe, appropriate for the weather and equivalent to the clothing of children in the same community, within the limits of the funds available for this purpose. Each eligible child may receive **up to \$200** per six-month period.

**The clothing allowance is provided in addition to the monthly foster care payment and is not meant to replace use of those funds to purchase clothing.**

A clothing allowance will be paid if:

- the CPS approves a foster parent's request for the funds; and
- the CPS determines that clothing is needed for the child.

### Eligibility Family Foster Care

Only children placed in family foster care are eligible to receive clothing allowances. A child is eligible for a clothing allowance if s/he is placed in a licensed youth foster home and:

- placement is expected to be for more than 30 days;
- care is paid by the Division; and
- the child has a need for a basic wardrobe as determined by the Child Protection Specialist and the foster parents.

The amount of the clothing allowance is determined by the child's wardrobe and the extent to which clothing is needed, but in no case may the amount exceed \$400 per child for the consecutive 12-month period beginning on the date that the

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Division makes the initial clothing allowance payment. The maximum amount of the clothing allowance may be paid in increments as determined by the Department.

The Child Protection Specialist Supervisor approves all clothing allowances.

### Foster Parent Responsibility

Clothing Inventory and  
Receipts

Foster parents are responsible for developing an inventory of the child's clothing and other possessions when a child is placed in the foster home and for maintaining the inventory throughout the time the child is in the foster home. Any clothing or other items specifically purchased for or given to a child must be added to the inventory list.

Foster parents must record the cost of clothing purchased using the foster care maintenance payment on the inventory list. Foster parents must maintain **receipts** for clothing purchased utilizing the clothing allowance.

When a child leaves the foster home, all of the child's current clothing (and other possessions) go with the child, if the child returns home or moves to another placement.

### Other Out-of-Home Facilities

The room and board payment that is paid on behalf of children in all other youth care facilities, including specialized and therapeutic foster homes, therapeutic youth group homes, shelter care facilities, receiving homes and child care agencies includes a portion for clothing. Children in these facilities are not eligible for a separate clothing allowance

### CAPS

After checking **FSPL** to ensure that **SCALL** has been entered as a service code, the CPS requests the clothing allowance by going to **SERL**, then **SERP** and entering the service code **SCALL**.

**NOTE:** If the foster child is receiving the SSI rate (PFSSI) for foster care payment, clothing allowance will need to be approved by the Regional Administrator. The CPS is required to send the request to the Regional Administrator in writing with justification.

### References

Mont. Code Ann. § 52-2-603  
Mont. Admin. R. 37.50.502, 37.50.506 and 37.51.810