

Sleeping Arrangements for Children in Foster Care

SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

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| ORC: N/A OAC: 5101:2-7-05; 5101:2-7-10 USC: N/A CFR: N/A | ORIGINAL: 4/06 REVISIONS: 5/06; 5/09/07; 9/30/09; 6/13/18 RELATED FORM(S): N/A RELATED PROCEDURE/POLICY(IES): N/A |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal <input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Information Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal <input type="checkbox"/> Safety & Security <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Services - All Departments <input type="checkbox"/> Social Services - Foster & Adoption |
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All Staff Bargaining Unit Non-Bargaining Management

POLICY:

All children in the custody of Summit County Children Services (SCCS) must have proper sleeping arrangements.

PROCEDURE:

A foster child over one year of age shall not share a bedroom with an adult without prior approval of SCCS. A foster child cannot share a bedroom with a child of the opposite sex, except when all children in the bedroom are under the age of five (5) years, or when the child is sharing a room with his or her parent who is also a foster child. The presence of a foster child in the foster home shall not cause any other resident of the home to be deprived of a bed or bedroom.

A bedroom for a foster child must be approved by SCCS prior to placement and must meet the following requirements:

- Accommodate no more than four (4) children;
- At least one outside wall window, unless the room is provided with a ventilation system to provide fresh air. The window must be screened and capable of opening and closing;
- Floor-to-ceiling walls and a standard door;
- On a floor no higher than the second floor, and may not be in a basement unless approved in writing by a fire safety inspector;
- Include storage space, including a closet or dresser for clothing;
- Provide a safe and comfortable sleeping area ensuring reasonable privacy and access to adult supervision as appropriate to the age and functioning level of the each child;

- Entry to the bedroom must not require the foster child to pass through another bedroom or a bathroom in order to enter the bedroom or require another person to pass through the bedroom to enter another room unless initial certification was prior to July 1, 2000;
- Be comparable in appearance in terms of wall coverings, floor coverings, and general décor to other bedrooms used by other children residing in the foster home;
- Be provided with reasonable access to an emergency exit.

Each foster child must have a clean, comfortable, and permanent bed and mattress. A permanent bed is one that cannot be converted to any other form. Foster children may not sleep in the bed with another person. All beds for foster children must meet the following requirements:

- Clean bed linen at least once per week or more frequently if needed. A foster child cannot be required to sleep on a bed soiled by urine or excrement;
- Bunk beds must be equipped with safety rails on the upper tier for a child under the age of 10 or for any child whose physical, mental or emotional condition indicates the need for such protection. A bed cannot be bunked higher than two (2) tiers;
- A child under the age of six (6) years may not sleep in the upper bunk of a bunk bed.

Foster children under the age of two (2) years or under thirty-five inches (35") in height shall be provided with a full sized crib. Infants may not sleep in the bed with another person. Infants should never be put to sleep in an area other than a crib which meets the following requirements:

- Crib slats must be no more than two and three-eighths inches (2 3/8") apart;
- Decorative cutout areas on the crib end panels are not permitted;
- Only cribs that are compliant with the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission shall be used;
- The crib must have a firm mattress which is at least one and one half inches (1½") thick and covered with a waterproof material not dangerous to a child. The mattress shall fit close enough in the frame so that there is no more than one inch between the mattress and the sides of the crib;
- The crib must be clear of materials such as pillows or large toys that could suffocate or otherwise be dangerous to the child.

Unless there is a documented reason for a child over 2 (two) years of age or thirty-five (35) inches in height to continue to sleep in a crib, the child must be provided a toddler bed or standard bed.

If a foster child under the age of two (2) years continually creates a danger to him or herself by climbing out of his/her crib and the foster caregiver, SCCS or the recommending agency, if different, agree that the child cannot continue to sleep safely in a crib, the child may use a toddler bed or other type of standard bed for sleeping, except that the child may not use the upper bunk of a bunk bed. Written documentation of such agreement must be signed by SCCS and maintained in the foster caregiver's record.

A bassinet or cradle may be used only for infants less than 15 pounds in weight.

Locking of a foster child's bedroom door while the child is sleeping is prohibited.