



RETENTION RESPITE

Several questions were raised about Retention Respite at recent 1624 meetings. It became apparent that there were many different interpretations of the practice and procedures regarding Retention Respite. There will no longer be a starting or ending month for accumulation of respite days.

The following points are from the Children's Administration Practice & Procedure Guide:

1. **Retention Respite is intended to provide regular, monthly breaks from the demands of foster parenting and may also be used to meet emergent needs of licensed caregivers.**
2. **Retention Respite is earned by eligible licensed caregivers at a rate of two (2) days per month. Licensed caregivers should be encouraged to use retention respite as it is earned.**
3. **A licensed caregiver must provide foster care to one or more children at least twenty (20) days in a month to earn retention respite for that month.**
4. **Newly licensed caregivers will have a 30-day waiting period from the first eligible child placement before accruing retention respite.**
5. **Licensed caregiver's may "bank" a maximum of fourteen (14) days of retention respite.**
6. **If a foster parent has accumulated the maximum 14 days, they will not accumulate any additional days until they use some of the 14 banked days. Once the banked total of respite days is less than 14 days, they can once again start to accumulate respite days the following month.**
7. **A reminder that the respite days are connected to the family, not the child. Example: Caregiver has four foster children. Respite provider will be paid for each child. Foster parent is charged for one respite day for each overnight respite day for the entire group, not one day for each child.**
8. **Retention Respite is authorized in daily units only. A day of respite is defined as either an overnight stay or eight (8) or more hours within a single day with a respite care provider.**
9. **All Retention Respite must be pre-authorized by the assigned Social Worker or Respite Coordinator prior to use of respite time.**

We want our families to take care of themselves and we believe this happens when they do take regular time for themselves. You are one of our most valuable resources. Feel free to contact Lisa Johnson at (509) 363-3342 if you have any questions.