

INSTRUCTIONS

Justification for Levels of Care Special Board Rate Form

CFS-304

First determine the level of care required in each applicable category of need. Refer to the Point Chart to determine the assigned number of points per level and category. Refer to the Rate Chart to determine the dollar amounts corresponding to points assigned. Add the dollar amounts for each applicable category to the basic board rate (standard of age) to obtain the total monthly Special Board Rate.

The Division has foster family resources that are trained to provide Level III advanced services and Level IV master services. Level III foster parents provide emotional, physical and auxiliary services for Level A through C and the master level foster families provide services for emotional and physical Levels D and E and auxiliary Level D. For Auxiliary Level E (post-secondary board payment for IL students) there is no requirement for an advanced or master level foster family. Documentation to support the child's needs at this level must be provided. Documentation must reflect language identified in the levels listed below. Examples of documentation include: a UAMS assessment, a facility discharge plan, a treatment plan developed by the child's therapist, and/or a mental health assessment, etc. A child is not eligible for a level of care board payment without the required documentation. Level III Advance and Level IV Master foster parents are eligible for a transition payment of \$50.00 when they successfully step down two foster children.

There must be documentation from the child's therapist that the child has completed their step down plan. The transition payment can only be keyed after the court has determined that the child can be discharged from foster care, and on the day the child is to be discharged from the home.

The transition payment must be keyed prior to the second child being discharged from the home.

You must complete the CFS-304 for all SSI eligible children.

These are guidelines and do not replace professional judgment. If behaviors are more excessive than the example given consider the next level. Once approved, assure that the special board rate is reevaluated on a quarterly basis for continued appropriateness. Review documentation from the child's treatment plan to determine if the child should be stepped down to a more appropriate level of treatment. The child's treatment provider must provide documentation that supports the need for the child to step down and a step down plan.

Documentation of the completion of the step down plan must be in the child's case plan and record.

LEVELS OF REQUIRED CARE

I. Emotional/Behavioral Need Category

Level A. These are children who periodically exhibit excessive dependency, passivity, lack responsiveness and the ability to relate. (Examples: excessive crying and curfew violations)

Level B. Children at this level require abnormal amounts of attention and affection; have need for a regimented program such as behavior modification. Such children often have school problems, difficulty with peers, moodiness, and frequent enuresis. Foster parents often have to provide an abnormal amount of structure (e.g., constant repetition and follow-through on instructions). (Examples: social conflict and impulsive/hyperactive.)

Level C. These children exhibit extreme attention-seeking behavior, stealing, drug use, encopresis, destructive behavior, extreme hyperactivity, sexual acting-out, running away, withdrawal, etc. (Examples: aggressive, but low risk to injury and sexual abuse victim.)

Level D. These children show extreme, bizarre behavior, may be self-destructive and require exceptional care. (Examples: social conflict, substance abuse and adjudicated delinquent.)

Level E. Children at this level show severely disturbed behavior, such as frequent running away, depression, attempted suicide, thought disorder, excessive fantasizing, or inappropriate behavior. They may be dangerous to themselves or others, and cannot be maintained in a normal family setting. (Examples: physical aggression causing superficial injury to self and others, cruelty to animals, sexual perpetrator and runs away.)

II. Physical/Medical Need Category

Level A. These children need some help with putting on braces or prosthetic devices, some help with buttons, laces, etc., but basically self-caring.

Level B. These children need help with dressing, bathing, general toilet needs, as well as some help in ambulation. They exhibit feeding problems such as excessive intake, extremely slow and/or messy requiring help and/or supervision due to retardation or emotional or physical handicap. Need for tube or gavage feeding and physical therapy less than one hour per day. (Examples: incontinence/bowel problems, brushing teeth and combing hair.) Level C. These children need appliances for drainage or ileal conduit, or a colostomy. They might need aspiration, suctioning, mist tent, etc. They are nonambulatory, needing constant attendance, and/or prescribed physical therapy, 1-2 hours per day, by foster parent. (Examples: requires APNEA monitor, non-symptomatic HIV infection and needs nebulizer treatment three times a day or less.)

Level D. These children require custodial care, physical therapy 2-3 hours per day. They have uncontrolled seizures. (Examples: periodic uncontrolled seizures, use of feeding tubes and requires mist tent/oxygen.)

Level E. Due to the severity of their physical handicap, these children are unable to tolerate a normal family setting and require on going care. Such children possibly need 24-hour supervision. (Example: Symptomatic HIV requires assistance with mobility, eating disorders, Failure to thrive, fetal drug addiction, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Shaken Baby Syndrome.)

III. Auxiliary Need Category

Level A. These children require special diets or supplements that require extra expense and are not covered under any other program. Regular but infrequent (less than monthly) trips must be made to physician, psychiatrist, therapist, etc. (Examples: minor feeding problems, Juvenile diabetes [Must be monitored by parent], Day treatment, special education and resource class.)

Level B. Children require special equipment or a regular and consistent tutoring program at home. There is unusual wear and tear on the home, and need for occasional period of relief by an adult. Therapeutic appointments must be met every 2-4 weeks. (Examples: mental retardation and truancy [Requires special monitoring by foster parents].)

Level C. There is extreme wear and tear on the home, frequent hospitalizations; therapeutic visits every two weeks or more often.

Level D. These children exhibit either emotional or physical problems of such severity that the foster parents must make extraordinary adjustments in their family life style to accommodate the foster child. Such adjustments may include, but are not being limited to ongoing regular attendance at supportive group meetings physical changes in the home (such as building ramps, installing, lifts, etc.), ongoing consultation with child care professionals. These children require foster parents who have shown skill in adapting family life to the needs of each child. (Examples: requires assistance with mobility, suspension and excessive truancy [school missed four or more months].)

Level E. The post-secondary board payment for IL students who choose to remain in care, but not in a licensed foster care facility while pursuing their educational goals should be used primarily for the following expenses:

1. Living quarters rent or dorm room charges
2. Food or meal plan charges
3. Clothing needs
4. Personal needs
5. Utilities
6. Deposits (rent/utilities)

POINT CHART					
CATEGORY OF NEED	A	B	C	D	E
Emotional	5	15	30	60	175
Physical	5	15	30	60	175
Auxiliary	5	15	30	60	250

RATE CHART						
Points	5	15	30	60	175	*250
Monthly Rate	\$50	\$70	\$100	\$160	\$390	\$630 Maximum

* Applies to IL students only. The actual monthly amount depends on completion of a CFS-0025 (IL Budget Calculation).