

SPECIAL NEEDS - TRAVEL COSTS



DID YOU KNOW?.....

The department may pay travel costs above the Basic Maintenance Rates for a child in care and an escort.

Circumstances include:

- Family contact to maintain/facilitate contact with the child's family/significant others
- Placement or pre-placement visits when a child is being placed with extended family, foster home, group home, treatment facility, or adoption home.
- Medical travel when a child attends medical, dental, optical, psychological, psychiatric/similar services (For medical travel out-of-province, Saskatchewan Health must be explored).
- Recreational, educational and cultural activities, events that occur regularly or occur outside the home community, and are of benefit to the child and where the travel costs are normally a parental responsibility.

The 10km Rate:

- Travel cost above the Basic Maintenance Rate, are only made for services or events over 10km from the caregiver's home.
- Travel cost above the Basic Maintenance Rate must have the prior approval of the caseworker (except in the case of an emergency).
- After approval, and travel outside the 10km radius range has been made, foster families must submit bills monthly and indicate:

- ❑ Name of child
- ❑ Purpose of travel
- ❑ Name of the worker who authorized travel
- ❑ Date of authorization
- ❑ Kms. traveled

Note – Costs must be pro-rated per child if more than one child, including foster parents' children, are transported at the same time.

- Payment is to be based on actual cost of transportation or gas – not Public service rates
- All travel approved on behalf of the child is paid through the child's file

What about Special Holidays/Excursions?

Additional assistance may be provided to enable a child to take a special holiday with foster parents.

- A thorough assessment to determine a fair and appropriate response based on the child's age and type of trip being planned is necessary.
- The youth is expected to contribute a portion of their spending allowance depending on the ability and opportunity the youth has to earn extra income.
- Foster parents do continue to receive foster care payments while on holidays

Points to know:

1. Special holidays include extended trips out of province
2. When a child travels out of province, a letter of permission and medical consent must be signed by the **Regional Director or designate.**
3. Maximum costs should be estimated and agreed upon by foster parents and caseworker in advance
4. When a foster child travels out of the country, additional health insurance should be purchased
5. Costs directly related to the child are costs that are additional due to the child's presence, such as and additional charge for the child to stay in the foster parent's room, and extra hotel room, or fares for public travel
6. If the foster family is going on a trip and taking the foster child along, the child should not be paying a portion of the mileage costs.



For more information see: Section 7.6 of the Children's Services Policies and Procedures Manual