

**441—156.1(234) Definitions.**

*“Child welfare services”* means age-appropriate activities to maintain a child’s connection to the child’s family and community, to promote reunification or other permanent placement, and to facilitate a child’s transition to adulthood.

*“Cost of foster care”* means the maintenance and supervision costs of foster family care, the maintenance costs and child welfare service costs of group care, and the maintenance and service costs of supervised apartment living and shelter care. The cost for foster family care supervision and for supervised apartment living services provided directly by the department caseworker is \$250 per month. When using this average monthly charge results in unearned income or parental liability being collected in excess of the cost of foster care, the excess funds will be placed in the child’s escrow account. The cost for supervised apartment living services purchased from a private provider are to be the actual costs paid by the department.

*“Earned income”* means income in the form of a salary, wages, tips, bonuses, commissions earned as an employee, income from job corps or profit from self-employment.

*“Escrow account”* means an interest-bearing account in a bank or savings and loan association that is maintained by the department in the name of a particular child.

*“Family foster care supervision”* means the support, assistance, and oversight provided by department caseworkers to children in family foster care and directed toward achievement of the child’s permanency plan goals.

*“Foster care”* means substitute care furnished on a 24-hour-a-day basis to an eligible child in a licensed or approved facility by a person or agency other than the child’s parent or guardian but does not include care provided in a family home through an informal arrangement for a period of 20 days or less. Child foster care includes but is not limited to the provision of food, lodging, training, education, supervision and health care.

*“Foster family care”* means foster care provided by a foster family licensed by the department according to 441—Chapter 113, approved by the department according to Iowa Code chapter 237, or licensed or approved by the placing state. The care includes the provision of food, lodging, clothing, transportation, recreation, and training that is appropriate for the child’s age and mental and physical capacity.

*“Group care maintenance”* means food, clothing, shelter, school supplies, personal incidentals, daily care, general parenting, discipline, and supervision of children to ensure their well-being and safety, and administration of maintenance items provided in a group care facility.

*“Income”* means earned and unearned income.

*“Inflation factor”* means the amount by which the consumer price index for all urban consumers increased during the calendar year ending December 31 that preceded the contractor’s fiscal year end.

*“Intellectual disabilities professional”* means a psychologist, physician, registered nurse, educator, social worker, physical or occupational therapist, speech therapist or audiologist who meets the educational requirements for the profession, as required in the state of Iowa, and has at least one year of experience working with persons with an intellectual disability.

*“Kinship caregiver”* means, for this chapter only, a person to whom a child is related by blood, marriage, or adoption, or a person who has a significant, committed, positive relationship with the child, who is caring for a child in foster care pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 232.

*“Kinship foster care approval”* means the authorization granted to the caregiver by the department to provide child foster care through an expedited process according to Iowa Code chapter 237 and allows the kinship caregiver to receive maximum financial support and to obtain the information and resources necessary to meet the needs of a child under a court-ordered placement with the kinship caregiver.

*“Mental health professional”* means a person who meets all of the following conditions:

1. Holds at least a master’s degree in a mental health field, including but not limited to psychology, counseling and guidance, psychiatric nursing and social work; or is a doctor of medicine or osteopathic medicine; and

2. Holds a current Iowa license when required by the Iowa professional licensure laws (such as a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a marital and family therapist, a mental health counselor, an advanced registered nurse practitioner, a psychiatric nurse, or a social worker); and

3. Has at least two years of postdegree experience supervised by a mental health professional in assessing mental health problems, mental illness, and service needs and in providing mental health services.

*“Parent”* means the biological or adoptive parent of the child.

*“Parental liability”* means a parent’s liability for the support of a child during the period of foster care placement. Liability is determined pursuant to 441—Chapter 99.

*“Physician”* means a licensed medical or osteopathic doctor as defined in Iowa Code section 135.1(4).

*“Prevailing rate”* means the maximum combined service and maintenance reimbursement rate the department pays to contracted shelter care providers as authorized by the legislature.

*“Provider”* means the entity that has executed a contract with the department to provide services.

*“Service area manager”* means the department employee or designee responsible for managing department offices and personnel within the service area and for implementing policies and procedures of the department.

*“Special needs child”* means a child with needs for emotional care, behavioral care, or physical and personal care that require additional skills, knowledge, or responsibility on the part of the foster parents, as measured by Form 470-4401, Foster Child Behavioral Assessment.

*“Unearned income”* means any income that is not earned income and includes supplemental security income (SSI) and other funds available to a child residing in a foster care placement.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.39.

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