

**441—204.4(234) Negotiation of amount of subsidy.**

**204.4(1) Subsidy agreement.** The amount of subsidy shall be negotiated between the department and the guardian and shall be based upon the needs of the child and the circumstances of the family.

**204.4(2) Amount of subsidy.** Each time negotiations are completed, the department worker and the guardian shall complete and sign a new Guardianship Subsidy Agreement.

*a.* The maximum monthly maintenance payment for a child in subsidized guardianship shall be made pursuant to the foster family care maintenance rates according to the age and special needs of the child as found in 441—subrule 156.6(1) and 441—paragraphs 156.6(4) “*b*” and “*f*.”

(1) The rate for the guardianship subsidy shall not exceed the state’s current daily basic foster care rate plus any daily special needs allowance or sibling allowance for which the child is eligible, as found in 441—subrule 156.6(1) and 441—paragraphs 156.6(4) “*b*” and “*f*.”

(2) Reserved.

*b.* If the subsidized guardianship payment is less than the maximum amount allowed, the guardian may request an increase if there is a substantial change in the child’s needs and circumstances that requires additional resources.

*c.* Guardianship payments shall continue if the guardian dies or becomes incapacitated and has named a successor guardian in the Guardianship Subsidy Agreement or in any amendments to the agreement.

**204.4(3) Placement outside of home.** If a child needs to be placed out of the guardian’s home and the plan is for the child to return to the guardian within six months, a partial subsidy amount may be negotiated.

**204.4(4) Nonrecurring expenses.** The nonrecurring expenses necessary to finalize a guardianship shall not exceed \$2,000.

**204.4(5) Special services.**

*a.* Reimbursement to the guardian family or direct payment made to a provider is limited to the following services.

(1) Outpatient individual or family services provided from a non-Medicaid provider only with approval from the service area manager or designee and when one of the following applies:

1. The services are not available from a Medicaid provider within a reasonable distance from the family.

2. The child and the family were receiving therapy or counseling from a non-Medicaid provider and it would not be in the child’s best interest to disrupt the services.

3. Available Medicaid providers lack experience in working with foster, adopted, or blended families.

(2) Travel-related expenses including transportation, meals and lodging not covered by Medicaid for visitation or family therapy when the child is receiving Medicaid-paid services out of the home.

(3) Supplies and equipment as required by the child’s special needs and unavailable through other resources.

(4) Funeral benefits at the amount allowed for a foster child in accordance with rule 441—156.8(234).

*b.* Any single special service and any special service delivered over a 12-month period costing \$500 or more shall have prior approval from the central office program manager prior to expending program funds.

*c.* For all Medicaid-covered services, the department shall reimburse at the same rate and duration as Medicaid as set forth in rule 441—79.1(249A).

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