

## Parent-Child-Sibling Visits FACT SHEET for Caregivers

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### CONTACT:

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### Upcoming Changes – Effective September 1, 2008

Two changes in state law take effect September 1, 2008. Both may affect your role as a caregiver. These changes include:

- When a child first comes into care, the child must visit with his or her parent(s) within 72 hours. A plan for future visits is also required within this timeframe.
- Siblings placed apart must visit each other twice a month. The Legislature provided money to make this happen.

### How Those Changes May Affect You

#### 72-Hour Parent- Child Visit

- When a child is first placed in foster care, their first visit with a parent may occur sooner than you expect. You should be prepared to help the social worker coordinate the visit within 72 hours.

#### Twice Monthly Sibling Visits

- Contracted visit coordinators will be available in most areas. However, those contracts won't be enough to build and keep strong sibling relationships.
- You can help with visits, although you are not required to.
- If you want to help, Children's Administration can pay you for mileage and help pay for activities that take place during the visit. (See details in the box below)
- The child's social worker may ask for your help in preparing the child for visits and coordinating schedules.

### Resources to Support Sibling Visits:

#### Mileage and Activities:

CA can reimburse you (up to twice per month) up to \$7.50 (per child per visit) for a child's activities that take place during visits with siblings. Examples of things we can pay for:

- Admission to sports activities, museums, parks, etc.
- Snacks or meals
- Classes
  - Mileage for one round trip per visit will be reimbursed.

#### How to Get Reimbursed:

1. Keep a receipt for activities you want (reimbursement) payment for (up to \$7.50 per child per visit, maximum twice per month).
2. Complete the mileage reimbursement form, DSHS #-7-079, using code (1) for mileage and code (8) for the activity reimbursement. Attach the (original) receipt to your mileage form and send it to your social worker or CA office. A sample form will be available on the foster parent website.

#### Reimbursement is only for:

- The child's activities, CA cannot reimburse a caregiver when they participate in an activity, or for other children in their care.
- Siblings placed apart, not siblings placed together.