

# Respite Care Fact Sheet

## Agency Respite vs. Parent Vendor Respite

(With input from the CA Respite Coalition and Channel Islands Social Services)

All families are strongly encouraged to discuss their responsibilities as a Household Employer with their tax advisor and legal counsel prior to entering into any employment relationship to make sure that they have appropriate insurance coverage and tax reporting procedures in place.

	Agency Respite Care*	Parent Vendor “Voucher” Respite
<b>Cost to Parent &amp; Caregiver Wages</b>	FREE to families for hours authorized through the Regional Center. Respite Agency pays all costs including employer taxes, mileage reimbursement, worker’s compensation, and unemployment insurance (EDD). Agency pays employed caregivers every two weeks and issues year-end W2 tax document. Caregivers paid <b>\$9.50</b> to \$16/hr depending on agency and type or ratio of care provided. Respite caregivers also reimbursed for mileage by most respite agencies.	Parents are reimbursed <b>\$10.39</b> per hour from the Regional Center after submitting detailed billing forms regarding care performed the month prior. This amount covers approx. <b>\$9.15/hr</b> in caregiver wages and \$1.24/hr for all state and federal employer taxes/withholdings, which the parent must submit to the state and to EDD on their own. Voucher respite does not include any mileage pay from TCRC.
<b>Locating a Qualified Respite Caregiver</b>	Agency hires caregivers referred by the family, or sends a qualified employed Respite Caregiver to the family. Agency runs criminal record search with full reference check performed on all caregivers unknown to the family. Agency verifies social security and U.S. Employment eligibility (I-9 form).  Family interviews the Caregiver and decides if the Caregiver is a good match for their specific needs. At the request of a family, agencies may hire a qualified, responsible minor (age 16-18) with a valid work permit.	Family is responsible to recruit and interview. Outside agency can be found by family to run criminal record check and reference checks if desired (avg. cost = \$50 - \$120).  Family verifies U.S. employment eligibility by completing I-9 form, and hires Caregiver. Caregiver’s Social Security # must be reported to TCRC on all billing of respite.  Minors (under age 18) are not allowed to provide care under Voucher Respite (see Title 17 Regulations)
<b>Availability and Scheduling of Caregiver</b>	Caregivers referred by the family are available upon their hire date. Family and selected Caregivers set the schedule for respite up to the authorized amount. If Caregiver is unreliable, family calls agency to file complaint and Agency begins recruiting another Caregiver for the family to interview.	Family and selected Caregivers set the schedule for respite up to the authorized amount. If Caregiver is unreliable, family must recruit and hire another person to meet their respite needs.
<b>Tracking of Hours</b>	Family and Caregivers are responsible to track all hours. Some Agencies send out detailed quarterly updates to families about the number of hours used and the remaining hours. Only hours signed by parents on a timecard are paid.	Family is responsible to track all hours. Since they must pay the Caregiver prior to being reimbursed by the regional center, families who do not keep careful track of the hours may exceed their authorized hours and may not be eligible for additional reimbursement.
<b>Caregiver Training</b>	Caregivers receive free CPR and First Aid Training, which includes training on care for seizures. Specific training on the child’s unique needs is provided by the parent. Monthly staff trainings for all Caregivers are offered by some Agencies.	Parents train and supervise the worker. CPR and First Aid Training provided by the American Red Cross can cost the family \$60 per year per Caregiver.
<b>What if the Caregiver gets Injured?</b>	The Respite Agency is responsible for all work-related injuries through their Worker’s Compensation Insurance carrier, which alleviates the family from most liability.  The agency can assist the family to find back-up care in the event that their Caregiver becomes injured.	Parents are responsible to pay for all work-related injuries of the Household Employee Caregiver under their Home-Owner’s or Renter’s Insurance policies, if such coverage is offered and purchased. Many policies do not cover injuries if the employee has not worked a minimum amount of hours, which may leave the family open to civil litigation.

For more information on making your decision, contact your Service Coordinator at the Regional Center:

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