SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, INC.

ADOPTION PERMANENCY DIVISION
RESPITE CARE SERVICES

WHAT IS RESPITE?

"Respite" refers to the short term, planned, temporary care provided to fostered and adopted youth in order for their families to take a break from the daily routine of care giving.

Respite care is short term, usually lasting from less than a full day up to three overnights (most often a weekend).

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF RESPITE?

The purpose of respite is to give parents/guardians time to temporarily relieve the added stress which they may experience while providing care for fostered/adopted children.

By alleviating that stress, respite care helpers prevent abuse and neglect while supporting family unity. Respite care provides parent/guardian with the opportunity to enjoy an evening out or a weekend vacation.

WHOM DO WE SERVE?

Respite Care Service provides state wide fostering and adoptive families caring for children ages 0-18.

To qualify for respite services through SCSCY, a child must currently be in the legal custody of the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services or must be legally adopted.

Children who have been legally adopted privately or through public agencies also qualify for respite care services. (A copy of the final adoption decree will be required.)

RESPITE CARE PROCESS

- Parents or professionals may contact the Southern Christian Services Respite Coordinator for service information and applications. The Respite Coordinator determines if the family is eligible for respite care after the application process is completed. Each child (not each family) may receive respite care services a ***maximum of one time per month.***
- The SCSCY Respite services approves, bills, and issue payment to providers for services, eliminating most out-of-pocket expenses for families.
- The SCSCY Respite Coordinator maintains a register of Certified Respite providers. Once a family is determined to be eligible for services, the Respite Coordinator will contact providers in an attempt to schedule requested services.
- This is a family driven service, and the receiving family is encouraged to identify and request a preferred provider. The parents/guardians may discontinue services at any time. Parents/guardians may contact the SCSCY Respite Coordinator with specific concerns about the quality of services.
- Parents/guardians may also choose to use a neighbor, friend, or family member as long as that person is certified as a respite provider through SCSCY and the coordinator is given a sufficient amount of time to set up the placement.
- The SCSCY Respite Care service is intended to be a planned break for caretakers-pre-arranged with SCSCY and a Certified Respite provider.
- Providers are expected to take the time to get to know the children and families. The parents are encouraged to invest time in training providers about their child's specific needs before respite occurs.

rebuilding broken lives
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