

LCCS POLICY 625

Children of Minor Mothers in Custody

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See new Policy #:	

Scope:	The provisions of this policy shall apply to LCCS Services Division Workers of Record
Responsibility:	LCCS Services Division Supervisors
Purpose:	To ensure that a minor mother, in LCCS Custody has the opportunity to bond with and parent her child.
Legal Cite:	O.R.C. 5103.03, 5153.16; O.A.C. 5101:2-42-04, 5101:2-39-06, 5101:2-42-19

POLICY STATEMENT

Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) will place the minor mother and her child in the same placement setting whenever possible.

LCCS will seek custody of the child of a minor mother, when the minor mother is in the agency custody or the custody of a relative.

LCCS will recommend awarding temporary custody of the minor mother's child to the relative when the minor mother is in custody of the relative.

PROCEDURE

When the Assessment/Family Services Caseworker becomes aware of the birth of a child to a minor mother who is in LCCS temporary or permanent custody, a Placement Custody Family Case Conference will be held to develop a placement plan for the child and minor parent.

A Placement Custody Family Case Conference needs to be held for both the minor mother and her child if the agency is considering taking custody of the minor mother, or transferring custody to a relative.

The agency will maintain open case status on the child of a minor mother who is in temporary or permanent custody of LCCS.

CASE PRACTICE GUIDES

Minor mothers and/or pregnant teens in agency custody shall be referred for appropriate services to enhance the ability to live and parent independently. Those services should include, but not be limited to:

- Independent Living (if age appropriate)
- Parenting
- Educational/Vocational

Referrals will also include any services needed for the minor mother's child. It is the responsibility of the LCCS Services Division Worker of Record to initiate or make the referrals for the minor mother/pregnant teen.

The LCCS Services Division Worker of Record shall assist the minor mother with the process of establishing paternity for the child.

RELATED POLICIES and FORMS

LCCS Policy 600 (Family Case Conference)

LCCS Policy 620 (Agreements for Temporary Custody)