

LCCS POLICY 650

Temporary Custody/Placements with Relatives at Shelter Care

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Obsolete/Combined Date:	
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See new Policy #:	

Scope:	This policy applies to LCCS Case Review Department & LCCS Services Division.
Responsibility:	LCCS Services Division Supervisors & LCCS Case Review Department Facilitators
Purpose:	To assure the selection of substitute care placements which: are the least restrictive, most family-like available; meet the child's needs; and, are likely to enhance the prospects for reunification, where appropriate.
Legal Cite:	O.R.C. §§ 2151.353, 5103.03, 5153.16; O.A.C. 5101:2-39-40, 5101:2-39-45, 5101:2-42-18

POLICY STATEMENT

When children must be removed from their own homes, relatives/kin must be explored as substitute caregivers.

LCCS' recommendation, at the Shelter Care Hearing, will be Interim Temporary Custody to a Relative / Kin willing and able to protect, and where such placement is:

- The least-restrictive setting available which meets the child's emotional and physical needs;
- Likely to enhance the prospects for reunification, when appropriate.

If Temporary Custody is awarded to the relative kin, at the Adjudication/Disposition hearing:

- The case will be subject to the same requirements as an agency custody case requiring Administrative Reviews and Permanency Planning Family Case Conferences as described in LCCS Policy 600 and 640;
- The parents will have a case plan with the ability to reunify with the child within normal timeframes.

- The Family Services caseworker will encourage the relative to provide the same standard of medical care as that required for children in the agency's custody and placement.

PROCEDURE

When consideration is given to a relative as placement, the following procedures must be followed.

- Clear the prospective family on the agency computer for any prior involvement with LCCS.
- Request the prospective caregiver sign a criminal records check form (LCCS 6551).
- Fax the authorization to the Sheriff's Office.
Notify the Records Bureau by phone that you have faxed an authorization and where to fax back the results of the record check. The Sheriff's Office will immediately conduct the check and fax the results back. **(After Normal Working Hours, contact the Sheriff's Dispatcher, who will conduct the check and fax the results.)**
- Send a copy of the faxed police check results to Data Processing.
- The original document will be received via Inter-Agency Mail; and, is to be placed in the Family File.
- Complete a Homestudy/Reevaluation for Traditional/Non-Traditional Relative Placements (LCCS 8699).
 - The Assessment Caseworker completes Sections I-III.
 - The Ongoing Caseworker completes Section I-VIII when making the initial placement or Section IV-VIII when the initial placement was made by the Assessment Caseworker.
- **The homestudy is approved/disapproved by the Assessment/Family Services caseworker and supervisor based on the information provided above. The child (ren) may be placed upon completion of Sections I-III of the homestudy. Police checks must be attached to the homestudy. The completed homestudy is due within 14 days of placement in the relative home.**

Whenever possible such placements are to be approved, in advance, during a Placement/Custody Family Case Conference. Where this is not possible, preliminary approval / disapproval, on the basis of the information obtained from the sources set forth above, is given by an LCCS Services Division Supervisor. Regardless, a Placement/Custody Family Case Conference must occur, at the earliest possible juncture, as set forth in LCCS Policy 600.

All relatives shall receive a completed Care Agreement (LCCS 8697) upon placement.

The homestudy, Sections I-III must be presented at the Shelter Care Hearing to recommend Interim Temporary Custody to the relative.

The proposed relative caregiver must appear at the Shelter Care Hearing.

The Court approves/disapproves Interim Custody to the relative caregiver.

At the Adjudication/Disposition hearing, Temporary Custody shall be awarded to the relative.

CASE PRACTICE GUIDES

Relative Placement Packets are available on the 6th, 7th, 9th, and 10th floors. The packets include all the paperwork requirements and guidelines of how to secure a relative placement.

Whenever it becomes evident that a child must be removed from his/her home, the caseworker shall obtain names, addresses and phone numbers of relatives or significant people in that child's life.

The Assessment/Family Services caseworker will discuss the parent's feelings and opinions about the child's prospective placement.

The child will also be consulted about his/her feelings regarding the prospective placement, when appropriate.

The relative(s) will be contacted regarding their availability, interest in placement and what supports may be necessary to maintain the placement. There will also be dialogue about the relative's willingness to provide long-term placement for the child.

The alleged paternal caregivers will be asked about their willingness/ commitment to continue to provide placement in the event that paternity is not confirmed.

RELATED POLICIES and FORMS

LCCS Policy 600 (Family Case Conference)

LCCS Policy 640 (Semi-Annual Administrative Reviews)

LCCS Form #6551 (Criminal Record Check)

LCCS Form #8697 (Care Agreements)

LCCS Form #8699 (Homestudy/Reevaluation for Traditional/Non-Traditional Relative Placements)