

## LCCS POLICY 705

### Children Being Discharged From an Out-Of-Home Care Setting

<b>Original Issue Date:</b>	5/13/1998
<b>Revision Dates:</b>	4/3/2000; 11/4/2008; 2/17/2009
<b>Revision Number:</b>	2
<b>Current Effective Date:</b>	4/20/2000; 12/1/2008; 2/17/2009
<b>Obsolete/Combined Date:</b>	
<b>Reason for Obsoleting/Combining:</b>	
<b>See new Policy #:</b>	

<b>Scope:</b>	This policy applies to all LCCS employees and substitute care providers.
<b>Responsibility:</b>	Placement Department
<b>Purpose:</b>	To ensure all moves from out-of-home care settings are planful and in the best interest of the child.
<b>Legal Cite:</b>	O.R.C. §§ 5103.03, 5153.16; O.A.C. 5101:2-5-13

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### **POLICY STATEMENT**

LCCS will develop a plan when a child in the agency custody is being discharged from an out-of-home care setting.

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### **PROCEDURE - including required timeframes and documentation**

#### **STANDARDS FOR REUNIFICATION**

When considering discharge from out-of-home care for the purpose of reunification, the following standards must be reviewed and assessed prior to the initiation of a Permanency Planning Conference.

- Caseworker completes a reunification assessment which indicates that the safety threats that led to placement have been significantly reduced.
- The parent has participated in case plan services, resulting in the reduction of safety threats to the child(ren).
- If the parent(s) have not successfully completed all of the case plan objectives, safety threats have been reduced to an acceptable level due to other factors.
- The parent(s) have stable housing arrangements and the physical characteristics of the home include the following:
  - >adequate sleeping arrangements
  - >physical safety for the child(ren)
  - >accommodations for any specific handicaps of the child(ren)
  - >sanitation and water
  - >utilities available/appropriate for the season

- >sufficient space so family functioning is not hampered
- >adequate health standards (e.g., limited number of pets)
- The parent(s) have access to adequate, nutritional food for the child(ren).
- The parent(s) exhibits the following characteristics:
  - >willingness to provide care for the child(ren)
  - >parenting skills such that a child(ren) is nurtured
  - >demonstration of basic knowledge, especially in such tasks as bathing, diapering, feeding and childproofing the home
  - >parental behavior, such as mental illness, mental retardation, substance abuse and domestic violence, does not endanger the child(ren)
- The parent has demonstrated that the child(ren)'s medical needs will be met by scheduling and/or accompanying the child(ren) to necessary medical appointments.
- The parent agrees to meet the child's educational needs, as evidenced by enrolling the child(ren) in school, participating in conferences, etc.
- The G.A.L. supports the decision to return the child(ren) home.

## **PROCEDURE FOR PLANNED MOVES**

### **Foster Parent**

- Notify agency – two-week notice.
- Attend Family Case Conference.
- Facilitate pre-placement visits to receiving caregiver.

### **Foster Care Caseworker**

- Explore options to prevent disruption if applicable.
- Notify WOR if change of placement needs to occur.
- Attend Family Case Conference and be prepared to share any concerns or strengths of the child.
- Move child if Change of Placement is from ABH to ABH.
- Facilitate pre-placement visits.

### **Caseworker**

- Schedule Change of Placement or Permanency Planning Family Case Conference to explore/ develop placement options and a permanency plan.
- Follow action steps of Family Case Conference.
- Facilitate pre-placement visits.

### **Out-Of-Home Care Caseworker**

- Attend Change of Placement Family Case Conference to obtain information needed to match child with appropriate caregiver.
- Share information about child (health, special needs, behavior) and case plan goals with receiving caregiver.
- Notify Family Service caseworker and data processing of placement change.

## **STANDARDS FOR EMERGENCY MOVES**

When considering an emergency discharge from an out-of-home care setting, whether for reunification or placement into another out-of-home care setting, the following standards must be reviewed and assessed at the change of placement Family Case Conference when an emergency develops during regular business hours. When the emergency develops outside of regular business hours, the standards will be reviewed and assessed by the responsible worker before making the decision and again at the change of placement Family Case Conference held the following business day.

- the police hold on the child has been vacated
- the Ex Parte court order has been vacated
- LCCS has received other court orders regarding custody or placement of the child
- a safety issue regarding the child has arisen that makes continued placement in the out-of-home care setting too risky
- the child presents a significant risk to self or others in the out-of-home care setting
- the caregiver becomes incapacitated and/or is unable to continue caring for the child

## **PROCEDURES FOR EMERGENCY MOVES**

- Night intake or security contacts the on call Placement Supervisor.
- Placement Supervisor gathers information and identifies emergency placement, and then the decision will be made whether the child needs a new placement.
- The Night Intake Supervisor makes the decision to call the designated worker to actually move the child.
- The next working day, procedures for planned moves are followed.

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## **CASE PRACTICE GUIDES**

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## **RELATED POLICIES and FORMS**