

## LCCS POLICY 805 Post Finalization Services

<b>Original Issue Date:</b>	1/17/1989
<b>Revision Dates:</b>	12/15/1993, 8/21/1995, 2/11/1999, 5/21/2000, 8/17/2001
<b>Revision Number:</b>	5
<b>Current Effective Date:</b>	12/3/2001
<b>Obsolete/Combined Date:</b>	
<b>Reason for Obsoleting/Combining:</b>	
<b>See new Policy #:</b>	

<b>Scope:</b>	All Service Division & Case Review Staff
<b>Responsibility:</b>	Manager & Coordinator of Placement Department, Manager of Assessment Department
<b>Purpose:</b>	To assure that adoptive families experiencing stress subsequent to adoption finalization receive appropriate services; and, to avoid unnecessary placement disruptions while assuring the effectiveness of safety planning.
<b>Legal Cite:</b>	O.R.C. §§5103.03, 5153.16; O.A.C. 5101:2-48-18 & 5101:2-39-07

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### POLICY STATEMENT

Lucas County Children Services (LCCS) will provide post-finalization services upon request of the birth parent, the adoptive parent, or the adoptee. LCCS may provide the services directly or by referral.

LCCS will provide child protective and case management post- finalization services to adoptive families.

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### PROCEDURE

LCCS will not delay immediate assistance to the adoptive parent or adoptee.  
LCCS will not delay in providing assistance to the birth parent or adoptee

**Post-finalization services provided by LCCS** include but are not limited to:

- Case management services;
- Information and referral services (Ex., Mental health/diagnostic services, respite, community services, etc.)
- Adoptive Training;
- Educational and support groups.

## **Post-Finalization Services Eligibility**

Adoptees, adoptive families and/or birth families, who are residents of Lucas County, will be provided with or referred to appropriate post finalization services.

All families with whom LCCS has placed a child through Adopt Ohio will have post-finalization services provided or arranged to be provided for nine months after the finalization at no charge to adoptive families. This does not preclude the agency billing from other sources, such as Medicaid for payment.

## **Screening Process**

All requests for post-finalization service will be screened in through the Intake Department.

### **If there is no indication of Child Abuse/Neglect ( CA/N):**

- Intake/Data Entry will assign the problem code 140, and
- The referral will be assigned to the Post Adoption Unit and forwarded to the supervisor of that unit (even if child is already out of the home and the parent is refusing them back).

**Note:** The duration for Problem code 140 referrals is 90 days. A decision to close the referral or open into a case must be made within the 90 days.

### **If the report includes an allegation of CA/N:**

- The referral will be assigned in accordance with agency procedures for abuse/neglect cases.
- If placement becomes an issue, the adoption supervisor will be notified.
- Each department (e.g., Assessment & Placement) will ensure that its workers are available to the other department as consultants during the assessment/investigation.

## **Post Adoption Procedures**

The Post Adoption Unit supervisor will assign the referral to a post adoption caseworker who will contact the family within one (1) working day to schedule a meeting.

A meeting with the post adoption caseworker and adoptive family will occur within five (5) working days of receipt of the referral.

The post adoption caseworker, in consultation with the post adoption supervisor and the family, will assess the adoptive family situation to determine what services are needed to alleviate the problems.

If the adoption caseworker determines that placement outside of the adoptive family appears to be necessary, the Post Adoption supervisor will:

- Schedule a Family Case Conference.
- Contact the Information Services Department to identify which unit, based on rotation, will be assigned this case.
- Speak with the unit supervisor to request a worker be assigned, discuss the case, and request attendance at the Family Case Conference.

The Post Adoption caseworker and new worker-of-record will conduct a transfer conference and joint home visit.

The Post Adoption Unit will provide supportive services and advocacy to adoptive families who have open cases in the agency's Department of Family Services.

Adoptees, adoptive parents and birth families requesting information from sealed records will be referred to the LCCS Records Department. The Records Department will provide information regarding the procedures for release of non-identifying and/or identifying information per LCCS Policy 150.

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## **CASE PRACTICE GUIDES**

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### **RELATED POLICIES and FORMS**

LCCS Policy 240 (Adoption Assistance & Adoption Subsidy Program)

LCCS Policy 801 (Pre-Finalization, Adoption Matching and Placement Services)

LCCS Policy 150 (Confidentiality and Release of Information)