

**LCCS POLICY 156**  
**Arranging Funerals for Children who have Died**  
**While in Agency Custody**

<b>Original Issue Date:</b>	6/28/1990
<b>Revision Dates:</b>	1/15/1999, 3/14/2008, 8/6/2013, 1/22/2020, 2/22/2021
<b>Revision Number:</b>	5
<b>Current Effective Date:</b>	2/22/2021
<b>Obsolete/Combined Date:</b>	
<b>Reason for Obsoleting/Combining:</b>	
<b>See new Policy #:</b>	

<b>Scope:</b>	All Involved LCCS Professional and Administrative Staff, as set forth below.
<b>Responsibility:</b>	Manager of Family Services Department, Director of Services Division, Director of Administrative Services, Executive Director, Supervisor of Health Services.
<b>Purpose:</b>	To assure that, within the constraints of PCSA fiscal accountability, there is active consideration of the grief and diversity issues of birth parents and substitute caregivers.
<b>Legal Cite:</b>	O.R.C. §§ 5153.10, 5153.16, O.A.C. 5101:2-33-14

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**POLICY STATEMENT**

When a child in the agency custody dies, LCCS will facilitate the development of consistent, sensitive funeral/burial arrangements, which address both grief and diversity, issues.

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**PROCEDURE**

**Temporary Custody**

The worker of record, in conjunction with management, will aid the birth parents in making funeral arrangements for the child. The worker will recommend collaborating with the substitute caregivers, taking into consideration cultural and/or religious differences which might exist.

The birth family will have primary responsibility and decision making in the arrangements.

## **Permanent Custody**

The Worker of Record in conjunction with their Manager will make the funeral arrangements after exploring the grief and diversity issues of the substitute caregivers and birth parents where appropriate (e.g. Recent termination of rights or ongoing relationship with the child).

## **Financial Issues**

Whether LCCS custody was temporary or permanent, LCCS will, when appropriate, assist with payment for modest funeral expenses including, but not limited to: burial plot, coffin, burial clothing, funeral services, and/or cremation with the approval of the Director of Services and Executive Director. Any outside sources of funding (if applicable) must first be utilized.

Worker of Record will explore all available funding sources to assist in covering funeral including, but not limited to: Medicaid, Social Security, and insurance benefits.

Itemized invoices for all expenses must be submitted, along with **Request for Funds Form #4695**, to the Fiscal Department.

## **Special Consideration**

Where an **autopsy** has not been required by the Lucas County Coroner, a recommendation as to whether an autopsy should be requested will be developed and submitted to the **Executive Director**, by:

- Department Manager;
- Health Services Supervisor; and
- Director of Services.

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## **CASE PRACTICE GUIDES**

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### **RELATED POLICIES and FORMS**

LCCS Policy 152 (Notification Procedures for Serious Injury/Illness or Death of Child (ren) in an Out-of-Home Care Setting)

LCCS Policy 157 (Internal Review of Cases Involving Children who have Died when there is an Open or Recently Closed Case)

LCCS Form #4695 (Request for Funds)