

# Child Safety POLICY

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**Title:** Carer Learning and Support

**Policy No:** CPD457-4

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## Policy Statement:

The Department of Communities (Child Safety Services) will provide carers with appropriate opportunities for learning and support to enable them to provide children and young people with a standard of care consistent with the Statement of Standards as outlined in the *Child Protection Act 1999* (the Act).

The term carer within this document refers to approved foster and kinship carers, including provisionally approved carers.

Foster and kinship carers who are granted the long-term guardianship of a child under the Act are **not** approved carers in relation to that child. However, they may be provided with learning and support opportunities specific to the child subject to long-term guardianship, where the guardian requests support in order to maintain the quality and stability of the care arrangement for the child.

## Principles:

Principles underpinning the implementation of this policy include:

- The welfare and best interests of a child are paramount.
- By providing all carers with an appropriate level of support, there is an increased likelihood of providing out-of-home care consistent with the principles and legislated standards of the Act and ensuring quality outcomes for children and young people.
- Child Safety Services has a responsibility to provide or ensure the provision of support and effective management processes to enable carers to fulfil their legislative responsibilities under the Act.
- Effective partnerships recognise the unique contribution of each participant and their commitment to and respect of each other.
- All carers have the right to feel supported and to receive support in a timely, consistent way.
- Foster and kinship carers granted the long-term guardianship of a child under the Act will be supported to the extent appropriate in the circumstance, in accordance with departmental policy and procedures, with a view to promoting the ongoing stability of the long-term guardianship care arrangement for the child.

## Objectives:

This policy aims to ensure that carers are provided with appropriate opportunities for learning and support and where applicable, meet the legislative requirements associated with their approval under the Act.

## **Scope:**

This policy relates to approved foster and kinship carers, including provisionally approved carers and suitable persons granted the long-term guardianship of a child under the Act.

## **Roles and Responsibilities:**

Direct support to approved carers is provided by Child Safety Services staff, and where applicable, the staff of foster and kinship care services.

The Child Safety Officer for a child is responsible for responding to requests for support by a long-term guardian.

## **Authority:**

*Child Protection Act 1999*

*Child Protection Regulation 2000*

*Financial Accountability Act 2009*

## **Delegations:**

The following officers are able to approve the payment of carer learning and support funds:

Regional Director, Child Safety, Youth and Families

Manager, Child Safety Service Centre

Manager, Child Safety After Hours Service Centre

Senior Practitioner, Child Safety Service Centre

Team Leader

Child Safety Officer

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**Records File No.:** CHS/05603  
**Date of approval:** September 2011  
**Date of operation:** 12 October 2011  
**Date to be reviewed:** 12 October 2014

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**Office:** Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services

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**Links:**

**Procedures**

Procedural details to give effect to the policy are set out in the Child Safety Practice Manual, chapter 8 and chapter 3.

**Related Policies**

Dual payment of carer allowances (289)

High Support Needs Allowance (296)

Complex Support Needs Allowance (612)

Child Related Costs – Carer support (597)

Child Related Costs – Long-term guardian support (608)

Expenses – Fortnightly caring allowance and inter-state foster payments (365)

Placement of children in care as part of an integrated child protection response (578)

**Strategic Context**

**Related Legislation or Standards**

*Child Protection Regulation 2000*

Statement of Commitment between the Department of Child Safety, foster care services and the carers of Queensland

**Related Government Guidelines or Policy**

**Forms, Standard Letters or Memorandum**

Foster Carer Agreement

Placement Agreement

**Rescinded Policy**

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Director-General