

Child Safety POLICY

Title: Carer Participation

Policy No: CPD460-3

Policy Statement:

The Department of Communities (Child Safety Services) is committed to promoting a partnership with foster and kinship carers that recognises the integral part played by carers in the child protection system.

Principles:

Principles underpinning the implementation of this policy include:

- Carers, Child Safety Services, and foster and kinship care services work in partnership to provide care that is child-centred and family focused.
- Each participant provides a unique contribution.
- Communication is open and respectful.
- Strong partnerships between Child Safety Services and carers occur when both parties invest time in building positive rapport and carers have meaningful opportunities for participation.
- Carers' participation will be supported by the provision of current information about relevant policies and practice, research and identified trends and needs.

Objectives:

The objective of this policy is to ensure that Child Safety Services staff collaborate with carers in the development of policies, programs and practice at a systems level.

Scope:

This policy and associated procedures guides the actions of Child Safety Services staff in supporting systems-level participation by carers.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Procedural details to give effect to carer participation in developing and implementing aspects of the case plan for individual children are described in the Child Safety Practice Manual.

- **Regional Directors** are responsible for the arrangements to give effect to carer participation in developing responsive policies, programs and practice that uphold children's safety, rights and well-being (systems level participation). This includes administration of funds to support these arrangements. Funds to support systems level participation can be used to meet the costs of:
 - venues

- catering
 - facilitation
 - transport (for example public transport and parking costs)
 - accommodation and meals (invoice or reimbursed on presentation of receipt) and
 - babysitting or casual child care for carer participants.
- **Child Safety Service Centre Managers** are responsible for promoting carer participation in cooperation with their Regional Director.
 - The **Regional Executive Director** is responsible to identify funds in regional budgets (annually), in consultation with Regional Directors to support carer participation processes.
 - The **Executive Director, Child Safety Families and Individual Support Programs and Partnerships** is responsible to identify funds (annually) to support Foster Care Queensland's activities and roles that impact on carer participation.
 - The **Executive Directors, Child Protection Development; and Child Safety Youth and Families Policy and Performance** are responsible to ensure policies and procedures support appropriate carer participation in developing and implementing aspects of the case plan for individual children and for regular review of the 'Statement of Commitment'.

As chair of the Child Protection Partnership Forum, the **Deputy Director-General, Child Safety, Youth and Families, Community Participation** is responsible for ensuring the 'voice' of carers is heard in the discussions and decisions of the Forum

Authority:

Child Protection Act 1999

Child Protection Regulation 2000

Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977

Financial Management Standard 1997

Delegations:

Regional Director

Manager, Child Safety Service Centre

Manager, Child Safety After Hours Service Centre

Senior Practitioner

Team Leader

Child Safety Officer

Records File No.: <If applicable>
Date of approval: 19 September 2011
Date of operation: 12 October 2011
Date to be reviewed: 12 October 2014

Office: Communities, Child Safety, Youth and Families
Help Contact: Child Protection Development – 3235 9411

Links:

Related Legislation or Standard

Nil

Related Government Guidelines

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

Related Policy

Carer learning and support (457)

Rescinded Policies

460-2 Carer Participation

251-2 Regional foster care committees and local foster care support groups

Linda A Apelt
Director-General