


**Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services
(CCDCFS)
Policy Statement**

Policy Chapter: Substitute Care
Policy Number: 6.02.15
Policy Name: Reimbursement to Foster or Adoptive Caregiver for Damages Done by a Foster or Adoptive Child in Their Care

Original Effective Date: 07/10/1998
Revision Date(s): 11/01/2012, 09/14/2009
Current Revision Date: 09/01/2014
Approved By: Patricia L. Rideout 

PURPOSE: To provide foster and adoptive caregivers with information regarding reimbursement for damages caused by a foster or adoptive child in their care.

SCOPE: This policy pertains to all CCDCFS foster, pre-finalization adoptive and relative parents, all CCDCFS staff and where applicable, to non-CCDCFS foster and adoptive parents who are caring for children in the custody of CCDCFS.

POLICY

- A. CCDCFS **does not** as a common practice reimburse foster, pre-finalization adoptive or relative caregivers for damages caused by a child in their care. Caregivers are urged to consult their homeowner's insurance policy for coverage.
- B. In extraordinary situations, DCFS may consider reimbursement on a case by case basis.

PROCEDURES

- A. If a caregiver feels that the damage done by a child is an unusual situation, they may request payment from CCDCFS by submitting a written request to their Resource Manager (RM) or Adoption Assessor (AA) including a summary of the damage, a summary of the incident in which the damage occurred, two estimates for repair and any other documentation which may prove helpful.
- B. The RM or AA will submit the documentation to the Senior Supervisor of Foster Care or the Senior Supervisor of Adoptions for consideration.

- C. The Senior Supervisor of Foster Care or Adoptions will make a decision within seven (7) days of receipt of the documentation.

The decision may be one of the following:

1. The agency denies payment;
 2. The agency will reimburse a portion or all of the damage;
 3. If age appropriate, the child or children will be responsible for paying for a portion or all of the damage. The decision as to whether child would benefit from this experience will be made with consultation between the worker of record's (WOR) senior manager and the RM senior manager.
- D. The Senior Supervisor will notify the caregiver in writing within three (3) business days of the decision and the reasons for the decision.
- E. If the agency has determined that CCDCFS will pay for the damage, the caregiver is to have the damage repaired, pay for the costs and submit the paid invoices to their RM or AA for reimbursement.
- F. For further information, please consult policy 6.02.13 "Payments to Foster Parents."

SEE ALSO:

Ohio Administrative Code Section 5101:2-5-13

Related County Policies

Policy 6.02.06 Problem Resolution with Foster/Adoptive/Relative Caregivers
Policy 6.02.13 Payments to Foster Parents